

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

JS
MD
TO : SAC, PITTSBURGH (100-15680)
FROM : SAC, BALTIMORE (100-22392) - P -
SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C
(OO: BALTIMORE)

DATE: FEBRUARY 26, 1971

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

RE: Pittsburgh letters to Baltimore, dated
May 2, 1968 and February 27, 1968.

WEST is a Reserve Index-A subject.

This case was reopened for a periodical updating of residence and employment, but efforts to verify his current residence in the Baltimore area have been negative.

In the past, the subject resided at 900 Elton Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland and was employed as a public speaker from his residence. He was also a former teacher.

A review of the subject's file reflects that the subject, since 1968, has been involved in the operation of the Appalachian Folk Center at Pipestem, West Virginia.

The Pittsburgh Office at Pipestem, West Virginia should attempt to verify if the subject is working and residing there.

② - Pittsburgh (REGISTERED MAIL)
2 - Baltimore
DDD:bjp
(4)

*Remove
assign
JLW*

100-15680-91

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 5 1971	
RGH	

b6
b7c



SAC, BALTIMORE (100-22392)

5/6/71

SAC, PITTSBURGH (100-15680) (RUC)

DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C
(OO: BALTIMORE)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

Re Baltimore letter to Pittsburgh dated 2/26/71.

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b7C

The following investigation was conducted by
SA [redacted]

On 4/27/71, [redacted]
[redacted] West Virginia (protect identity), advised that during the winter months subject was not residing at Pipestem but would occasionally stop at the Post Office to pick up his mail. She said he was in New York, New York, for a period of a little over one month and she forwarded mail to him at New York but she no longer has this address. She said subject informed her that he gave lectures at the colleges, universities and schools in Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, and Ohio until about two weeks ago when he returned to Pipestem and is presently residing at the Appalachian Folk Center, which is the name he gave to the farm that he purchased at Pipestem. She said there was an old house on the property when he purchased it and since that time he has added a house trailer and three or four out buildings, one of which is a kitchen and dining hall and the others have barracks type rooms. [redacted] said during the summer of 1970, subject had a number of groups visit the center for short periods and she assumes that he will do the same during the summer of 1971.

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b7C
b7D

[redacted] further advised that subject's wife obtained a sabbatical leave from the school where she was teaching in Maryland and she is presently

b6
b7C
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2 - Baltimore RM
1 - Pittsburgh
GAP/jj
(3)

b6
b7C

100-15680-92

PG 100-15680

attending Marshall University at Huntington, W. Va.;
where she resides in a dormitory but reportedly frequently
visits at Charleston, where her daughter resides.

F B I

Date: 5/12/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

SAC, PITTSBURGH (100-15680)
SAC, BALTIMORE (100-22392) P
DONALD LEE WEST
SM-C
OO: BALTIMORE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

RE: Baltimore letter to Pittsburgh, 2/26/71.

Referenced communication requested investigation
be conducted at Pipestem, W. Va., in an effort to verify
if the subject is residing and working in that community.

Pittsburgh should expedite investigation.

2 Pittsburgh REGISTERED MAIL
1- Baltimore
DDD:sab
(3)

*See serial 92
crossed in mail*

C *100-15680-93*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>R</i>	FILED <i>R</i>
FBI - PITTSBURGH	

R

Approved: *VK/mj* Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

SAC, BALTIMORE (100-22392)

5/27/71

SAC, PITTSBURGH (100-15680) (RUC)

DONALD LEE WEST
SM-C
(OO: BALTIMORE)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JM

Re Pittsburgh letter to Baltimore dated 5/6/71.

On 5/21/71, [redacted]
West Virginia, (Protect Identity) advised SA [redacted]
[redacted] that subject's address while he was in New York
during the winter months of 1970 - 1971, was in care of [redacted]
[redacted] New York.

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b7D

LEADS

BALTIMORE

AT BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

If not previously known, will attempt to ascertain
subject's activities while he was in New York.

2-Baltimore
1-Pittsburgh

GAP/ssk
(3) *psk*

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SERIALIZED
[Handwritten signature]

100-15680-94

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IN 'PIPESTEM PINKO PURGE'

Informer held as perjurer

An informer for the Justice Department perjured himself, according to an article by James A. Haught, staff writer for the Charleston Gazette, in regard to the "Pipestem Pinko Purge" that heady episode in 1968 when a committee called Citizens for Prevention of Anti-American Infiltration into Summers County fought fiercely under the slogan, "Let Old Glory Wave Forever?"

Haught writes: "Ammunition for the battle consisted mostly of congressional testimony by a man named Paul Crouch, who claimed the

Rev. Don West, operator of the Appalachian South Folklife Center at Pipestem, Summers County, had been a Communist.

Well, a national column said Wednesday that Crouch was a perjurer who lied "once too often," got caught in a lawsuit, and caused the U. S. Justice Department to cease using hired informers.

"But it doesn't really matter, because opposition to the Pipestem folklife camp has begun to fade, and Mr. West is tolerated at least enough to make Rotary Club addresses.

According to Haught, the Pipestem Pinko Purge actually originated in Charleston. One of the super-conservative committees led by Charleston stockbroker Herbert W. Stone began disseminating warnings that Summers County might be infected with the "horrible, monstrous, criminal, international Communist conspiracy."

Haught continues: "Stone distributed copies of 1949 Congressional testimony against Mr. West, a retired professor-poet who had retired as a university teacher, and come to West Virginia to open

a camp for the "privileged youths."
The heart of the testimony was a claim by Crouch, an ex-Communist, that Mr. West had been a Communist party organizer in the Carolinas and Kentucky in the 1930s.
Stone's material was reprinted by three small newspapers—the Princeton Times, the Kanawha Valley Leader at Nitro and the Coal Valley News at Madison. Mimeographed copies of the testimony were spread over Summers and Mercer counties. Carloads of men whom

Mr. West, called "beer-pint drunks," harassed the Pipestem camp.

The Rev. Fred Dillon, brother of State Sen. J. C. Dillon Jr., D-Summers, and the Rev. Billy Apostolon became spokesmen against The Red Menace. Mr. Apostolon led the Citizens for Prevention of Anti-American Infiltration into Summers County, and published advertisements in the Hinton Daily News.

"The West Virginia Hillbillies published an interview quoting stockbroker Stone as saying Mr. West was a "high-ranking, hardcore Communist." But Stone declared later he had been misquoted.

During a Charleston meeting, Mr. West declared that he wasn't, and never had been, a Communist—and he said he had taken the Fifth Amendment at congressional hearings because he refused to be questioned in what he felt was a McCarthyistic witch-hunt.

"As for Crouch's testimony, the minister said it was "completely false."

"The inflammatory mood gradually diminished. Mr. West's folksy camp, where he attempts to teach that mountain people have a tradition of democratic principles, has become an established fixture. Its annual folk festival is one of the largest in Appalachia. State and national figures—including the wife and daughter of Gen. William Westmoreland—have visited the converted farm.

"The editor of the Princeton Times had declared he was wrong and has become a friendly visitor at the folklife camp.

"An epitaph to the Pipestem Pinko Purge came Wednesday. The nationally syndicated Joseph Alsop column, which usually holds conservative-minded positions, claimed that many "hired informers" used by the Justice Department in the McCarthy heyday were out-and-out liars.

"In the end, one of the hired informers, Paul Crouch, perjured himself once too often. Court action followed. And the hired informers were finally dropped from the Justice Department payroll."

Informer

(Continued from Page 1)

icate page, name of
spaper, city and state.)
Page #1 & 8
Hinton Daily News
Hinton, W. Va.

7/15/71

Title: DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C
Character: 100-15680-95
or
Classification:
Submitting Office:
 Being Investigated

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SEARCHED..... INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED..... FILED.....
AUG 6 1971
FBI - HINTON

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

AT
OLD FESTIVAL—visitors at the Appalachian folk
festivals were of all sizes and shapes, and wore every con-
figuration of garb.

They came thousands strong from more than 30 states,
and above us a part of the crowd sitting in front of the
platform as one performer after another did "the thing."



(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page #1
Hinton Daily News
Hinton, W. Va.

Date: 8/2/71

Section:

Author:

Title:

Editor:

Donald Dee West

SM - C.

Character:

Rating:

Classification: L)**

Filing Office: 100-15680

Being Investigated

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b7c

100-15680-96

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
AUG 3 1971

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page #1
Hinton Daily News
Hinton, W. Va.

Date: 8/2/71

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Donald Lee West
SM - C

Character:

or 100-15680

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

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b7c

CANDID CAMERA—Dr. Don West, organizer of the Appalachian Folk Festival held on his farm at Pipestem last week, is shown talking with his daughter, Hedy, internationally known folk singer, who was

master of ceremonies for the festival. The fourth annual affair was attended by an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 from throughout the nation, according to West.

100-15680-97

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
AUG 10 1971
FBI - HINTON
[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, PITTSBURGH (100-15680)

DATE: 9/28/71

FROM : SUPV.

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b7C

SUBJECT: DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JM

The attached leaflet was received anonymously
in the Ronceverte, W. Va., Resident Agency mail on 9/20/71.

VER/jkc
(1) *jkc*

*Find to Pzls
for R/S from SA*

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SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
SEP 28 1971	
FBI — PITTSBURGH	



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

HEARING

of record

under Call No. HX91A13U55, Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.,
document titled

COMMUNISM IN THE MID-SOUTH

Unexpurgated transcript of referenced document on file in the
Library of Congress beginning on page 25 thereof and ending on
page 31, identified as

TESTIMONY OF DONALD L. WEST

in

HEARINGS BEFORE THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS

of the

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, UNITED STATES SENATE, 85th CONGRESS,
First Session

Memphis, Tenn., 28 October 1957, Senator Wm. E. JENNER, presiding,
also present:

Robert Morris, chief counsel
J. G. Sourwine, associate counsel
Benjamin Mandel, research director, and
Frank Schroeder, chief investigator.

(Last seven lines of Page 24 of Record)

Senator Jenner. All right, call the first witness.

Mr. Morris. Mr. West, will you be sworn to testify?

Senator Jenner. Do you swear the testimony you give in this
hearing will be the truth, the whole truth,
and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. West. I do.

Senator Jenner. You may be seated.

TESTIMONY OF DONALD L. WEST

(Page 25 of Record)

Senator Jenner. Will you give your name and address, please?

Mr. West. Donald L. West.

Senator Jenner. Where do you live?

Mr. West. Douglasville, Ga., rural free delivery 4.

Senator Jenner. What is your business or profession?

Mr. West. Farming.

Senator Jenner. All right, you may proceed, Mr. Morris.

Mr. Morris. Where were you born, Mr. West?

Mr. West. Born in Gilmer County, Ga., near Ellijay, Ga.

Mr. Morris. Gilmer County?

Mr. West. Near Ellijay, Ga.

Mr. Morris. I see. I want you to tell the committee very briefly your educational background, will you, please?

Mr. West. Well, part of my high school--I went to grade school out at Rome, Ga., worked my way, and from there I worked in a little college in Tennessee, as part--worked my way through the university, Lincoln Memorial School.

Mr. Morris. What school?

Mr. West. Lincoln Memorial. And from there I went to Vanderbilt University, received a bachelor of divinity degree. And have done advanced study at various educational institutions around about the country.

Mr. Morris. And what is your business or profession at this time?

Mr. West. I just said, sir, that it was farming. I am trying to run a farm on the Chattahoochee River; in other words, out of Atlanta.

Mr. Morris. Have you been in charge of the Communist Party in Atlanta, Ga.?

Mr. West. Sir, I would like to say at the beginning that on any questions relative to my past political associations or affiliation, or religious beliefs or political, I will have to respectfully claim the rights of the fifth amendment of our Constitution. I might say further that I am not a member of any political organization. I am only working only on the matter of running a farm, trying to make a living thereby.

Mr. Morris. Well, were you a member of the Communist Party 3 days ago?

Mr. West. I would have to claim the fifth amendment on that, sir.

Mr. Morris. Were you a member of the Communist Party this morning when you first came into this courtroom?

Mr. West. I am sorry, sir, I will have to take the fifth amendment on all such questions.

Mr. Morris. Are you a Communist now?

Mr. West. I have just said voluntarily that I was not a member of any political organization, including the Communist Party.

Mr. Morris. As of this afternoon session?

Mr. West. True, sir.

Mr. Morris. As of this afternoon session, 20 minutes after 2 o'clock in the evening, October 28?

Mr. West. That is right.

(Page 26 of Record)

Mr. Morris. At 12:30 this morning, October 28, were you a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. West. I have already said, sir, I would have to claim the fifth on all questions regarding my past associations or affiliations.

Mr. Morris. On February 15, 1956, did you make a trip to New York City and there visit certain Communist Party functionaries at Communist Party headquarters?

Mr. West. I would claim the fifth amendment, sir, on that.

Mr. Morris. You have been a contributor to the Communist publication, Masses and Main Stream, have you not?

Mr. West. I will claim the fifth amendment on that, sir.

Mr. Morris. In fact, the editor of Masses and Main Stream, Mr. Samuel Sillen, has been an intimate friend of yours, has he not?

Mr. West. As I have previously said, sir. I would have to claim the fifth on past associates or affiliations, and claim it now.

Mr. Morris. Did he not come from New York and visit in your home at Christmastime in 1954?

Mr. West. I take the fifth on that, sir.

Mr. Morris. Now, your wife is Jeannette West?

Mr. West. I would take the fifth on that.

Mr. Morris. Was she formerly a correspondent in Moscow of the Daily Worker?

Mr. West. I would take the fifth on that.

Mr. Morris. Do you have a sister, Belle, B-e-l-l-e?

Mr. West. I would have to claim the fifth on that.

Mr. Morris. To your direct knowledge, has she been a Communist Party organizer in this particular area?

Mr. West. I take the same position, sir.

Mr. Morris. Have you been the editor of the publication called the Southerner?

Mr. West. I would take the fifth on that, sir.

Mr. Morris. All right.

Senator Jenner. Mr. West--

Mr. West. Yes, sir.

Senator Jenner. Do you honestly believe the truthful answer to questions propounded to you by Mr. Morris concerning your wife and your sister would tend to incriminate you?

Mr. West. I would take the fifth on that, sir--have to.

Mr. Morris. Mr. Chairman, in view of the responses of the witness, I would rather not prolong this too much. But Mr. Mandel has compiled a long series of exhibits--we of course have enough evidence and information, the sum total of which is that he, this witness today, has been one of the more prominent Communist organizers in the South over a period of years.

I wonder if, Mr. Chairman, subject to more questions by Mr. Sourwine and yourself--I would like to offer this for the record.

Senator Jenner. They may go in the record and become part of the record.

(Page 27 of Record)

(The material above referred to was marked "Exhibit 2-M" and reads as follows:)

Exhibit 2M

DON WEST

"Don West, Louisville, Ky.: This man, formerly in charge of Atlanta, Ga., for Communist Party, is a preacher and a graduate of Vanderbilt University. He sneaked out of Atlanta on a truck, under a load of gunnysacks, when Assistant Solicitor General Hutson

swore out warrants for his arrest. After a short period in New York City, he was sent to Kentucky and there made organizer.

"It has been reported on numerous occasions that he was a part-time employee of the Textile Workers Union, a CIO affiliate and at the same time was district organizer of district No. 23, Communist Party." (Part of the records introduced by Mr. John P. Frey, president of the metal trades department of the A. F. of L., before the House Un-American Activities Committee on August 13, 1938; p. 129, vol. 1, Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities before the House Un-American Activities Committee, August 1938).

Contributing editor, The Negro Liberator (p. 625, vol. 1, ibid.)

Affiliated with the People's Institute of Applied Religion (p. 139, testimony of Walter Steele before the House Un-American Activities Committee, July 21, 1947). People's Institute of Applied Religion has been cited as subversive and Communist by the Attorney General in letters to the Loyalty Review Board dated June 1, 1948 and September 21, 1948.

"Mr. Mandel. (Did you ever meet) Don West?

"Mr. Crouch. I knew him very well, for many years, as Don West and as Jim Weaver. He was district director of the Communist Party of North Carolina while I was district organizer in the fall of 1934 or early 1935. He then left the Carolinas and went to Kentucky as district organizer of the Communist Party through most of 1935, and then was released from that post and returned to the South, where he has spent most of his time as a writer. The latest news I had was that he was a professor at Oglethorpe University in Georgia and recently published a book of poems" (testimony of Paul Crouch before the House Un-American Activities Committee, p. 191, May 6, 1949).

One of the organizers of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn. (p. 193, ibid.).

"Mr. Russell. Will you tell the committee what you know about Don West?

"Mr. Crouch. Yes. I first met Don West in North Carolina in July or August 1934 when he was sent by the central committee to act as central director. He acted in that capacity 1 year, using the name Jim Weaver. During this time he headed the Burlington defense committee. He was released from North Carolina to go to Kentucky as district organizer of the Communist Party. After leaving Kentucky he went to his old home in Georgia, where he engaged in literary pursuits for some time, and I understand at present he is a professor at Oglethorpe University, and the author of a recently published book of poems. He is a brother-in-law of Nat Ross, southern representative of the central committee of the Communist Party, and a brother-in-law of Bart Logan, a former district organizer in North Carolina; and a sister of Don West, Jeannette Weaver, has been Daily Worker correspondent at Moscow over a number of years" (p. 209, ibid.).

"Mr. Tavenner. (What do you know about) Don West, of Bethel, Ohio?

"Mrs. Edmiston (former member of the Communist Party). He was a minister; of what religion I don't know. He was also a Boy Scout leader at Bethel, Ohio. He was identified as a Communist Party member and an active member of the American Peace Mobilization.

"Mr. Tavenner. How did you know he was a member of the Communist Party?

"Mrs. Edmiston. He was identified to us by Steve Grattan, secretary of the Communist Party at Columbus (p. 2716, testimony of Martha Nichols Edmiston, House Un-American Activities Committee hearings regarding Communist activities in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area, pt. 1, July and August 1950) (on p. 2726, *ibid.*, Mrs. Edmiston identifies West as being minus one finger on one of his hands).

(Page 28 of Record)

GEORGIA COMMISSION ON EDUCATION, ATLANTA, GA.

Donald L. West

- (1) American Peace Mobilization: Endorser, call to American People's Meeting, April 5-6, 1941.
- (2) Book Union: Contributor, *New Masses*, October 1, 1935, back cover.
- (3) Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor, an auxiliary of International Labor Defense: Member of committee of sponsors, booklet, August 1945.
- (4) Communist Party: Member, House Committee Report on Southern Conference for Human Welfare, 1947, page 5.
- (5) Educators for Wallace, member: Pamphlet, October 1948.
- (6) Mother Bloor Celebration Committee: Sent greetings, booklet, undated.
- (7) National Council of the Arts, Sciences, and Professions: Sponsor of conference, report of conference, October 9-10, 1948.
- (8) National Federation for Constitutional Liberties: Signer of open letter asking the President to rescind Biddle decision on Harry Bridges, booklet, July 11, 1942.
- (9) National Wallace for President Committee: Member, press release, March 23, 1948.
- (10) *New Masses*: Contributor, *New Masses*, April 10, June 5, and June 26, 1934; August 27, 1935; May 28, 1946.
- (11) Open letter on Harry Bridges: Signer, *Daily Worker*, July 19, 1942, page 4.
- (12) People's Institute of Applied Religion: State director for Georgia, letterhead, December 11, 1940.
- (13) People's Institute of Applied Religion: Sponsor and State director for Georgia, letterhead, February 12, 1941.
- (14) People's Institute of Applied Religion: Field leader, letterhead, April 9, 1942.
- (15) People's Institute of Applied Religion: Member of southern committee, letterhead, January 1, 1948.
- (16) People's Institute of Applied Religion: Member of southern committee, letterhead, April 16, 1953.
- (17) *Pilot* (Communist-controlled weekly of National Maritime Union): Writer for *Pilot*, May 11, 1945, page 17.
- (18) Southern Conference for Human Welfare: Signer of manifesto, *Southern Patriot*, June 1947, pages 4-5.

Mr. Sourwine. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Morris, I have two questions. not in the area where the witness said he would have to claim the fifth amendment. Maybe we can get answers.

Senator Jenner. All right, proceed.

Mr. Sourwine. When were you last in Knoxville?

Mr. West. Sir, I could not remember when I was last in Knoxville.

Mr. Sourwine. You have been in Knoxville this year?

Mr. West. Not that I recall, sir.

Mr. Sourwine. On March 17 of this year?

Mr. West. I don't remember that.

Mr. Sourwine. Do you know Helen Parsons?

Mr. West. I would have to claim the fifth amendment, sir, as to all my past associations and acquaintances.

Mr. Sourwine. Do you know whether Helen Parsons lives in Knoxville?

Mr. West. I do not, sir. I could not say truthfully that I do know.

Mr. Sourwine. I want to refresh your memory and give you an opportunity to correct the previous answer. Isn't it true that on March 17, 1957, you visited Helen Parsons' home at Knoxville?

Mr. West. I would have to claim the fifth on that, sir.

(Page 29 of Report)

Mr. Sourwine. Now, we will go back to the prior question when I asked you whether you were there in March of this year. Do you want to change your prior answer?

Mr. West. I said, sir, that I could not recall, and I would have to take the fifth amendment on any questions---

Mr. Sourwine. You now take the fifth amendment on that?

Mr. West. Yes, sir.

Senator Jenner. I think you previously stated, Mr. West--- however, the record will speak correctly---that you could not recall?

Mr. West. That is true.

Senator Jenner. Now, do you recall, or do you take the fifth amendment?

Mr. West. I take the fifth, sir, upon the question.

Senator Jenner. That is all, then.

Mr. Morris. Sir, I have one more question I would like to ask you.

I would like to offer--

Mr. Barber, will you offer this piece of paper to the witness?

I wonder if you will read that for us, Mr. West. Begin reading, so that you will be able to identify it in your own mind and give us a general idea what it is.

Mr. West. You want me to read aloud?

Mr. Morris. Yes. At least, the beginning of it, until you are able to answer whether you identify that.

Mr. West. Do I have to read this, sir? I mean---

Mr. Morris. Well, I am asking you to.

Mr. West. And do I have to read it?

Mr. Morris. Can you?

Mr. West. Yes, sir. It is:

Correspondence: Any person or persons handling mail or correspondence with sharecroppers, farmers, or tenants or organizers in the South should remember the following elementary rules.

Mr. Morris. Now, did you author that?

Mr. West. Beg your pardon?

Mr. Morris. Did you author that? Did you write that? Did you compose it?

Mr. West. Sir, I would have to take the fifth amendment on that.

Mr. Morris. Mr. Mandel. I wonder if Mr. Mandel would read this in the record?

Senator Jenner. Proceed, Mr. Mandel.

Mr. Mandel (reading).

Pointers on work in the South. 1. Correspondence: Any person or persons handling mail or correspondence with farmers, sharecroppers, tenants, comrades or organizers in the South should remember the following elementary rules;

(a) Envelopes should never be addressed by typewriter, handwriting is better, and should not be too flashy--better if somewhat poor. Always use title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, etc.). Never use business envelopes.

(b) Don't use return address of our offices, use some innocent address, better if a house address. If writing to a Negro, use address from Negro section of city. ~~If name of a company or business house is used, use one that corresponds to the kind of package or envelope sent.~~

(c) Packages must always be well wrapped (so they don't fall apart in transit) and must look innocent. Don't send papers openly, but if a bundle, put in a box, so that it looks like a gift or something personal. In addressing, abide by rules given for letters. Single copies of paper should be sent first class.

(Page 30 of Record)

(d) Time: Don't send packages or letter to any given address too often. Alternate, have at least 2 or 3 addresses in each locality, if possible. Don't continue sending bundles for too long a time to one address. Three months' limit.

(e) By all means, do not send any circular letters as third class. Send first class, following directions for letters. They expose at once. If the organization is known, on rare occasions, such can be done. But don't make this a practice.

(f) Content of letters; When writing letters, always, although writing business matters, make letter appear as personal. Address person as "Dear Friend," etc. Avoid mentioning names, do so only when absolutely necessary. Always use very simple language. Experience shows that letters from our office have not been understood by sharecroppers, and necessitated a "learned" person to transcribe same.

Some general suggestions:

(a) Always avoid too much mail. Try to get along with as little as possible.

(b) Have all southern mail and addresses handled by one responsible person, who has been assigned to do it.

(c) Build up a definite machinery to handle contacts, addresses, etc. Use past experience of our organizations.

(d) Do not mail letters and packages to the South with other office mail. This practice should be followed all the time.

(e) Always remember the following:

1. One letter, wrongly handled, can subject receiver to terror, discrimination, etc.

2. The mailing apparatus is part of the United States spy system.

3. Farmers, sharecroppers, tenants, etc., always live in localities where "local inquisitiveness" is rampant.

To editors: Some things to remember.

(a) Always use very simple picturesque language. Avoid all long words. Don't try to prove your intelligence by high language. It usually brings the opposite result.

(b) Avoid using names of people. (This does not apply to our enemies).

(c) Names of places, if connected with definite events, often give away our friends. Be careful how such is used.

(d) Often a detailed account of an event will expose those connected with it. Such material should not be used.

(e) Don't write long articles.

(f) Use letters from friends.

1. Try and save the southern language, terms and names of things; changing such will greatly lessen value of article or letter.

2. By all means, use such correspondence. Our papers contain too little from the South.

3. When in doubt, as to facts, data, etc., of letter or article, get in touch with the nearest organizer.

Mr. West. May I say just a word, please, sir, Mr. Morris?

Mr. Morris. Yes, Mr. West.

Mr. West. I know that--see, in the first place, I only received the subpoena late Friday afternoon. I haven't consulted any attorney or anybody else, and I know that in a case like that I could say that I did not author it and there might be someone who might swear that I did, but I am going to take a chance and give a frank answer. I have never seen nor heard that reading in my life, as far as I can recall, and I certainly did not author it. Now, that is the plain answer to that.

Mr. Morris. Is your testimony, Mr. West, that---

Mr. West. My testimony is that I did not write the piece of paper, and as far as I can recall I have never seen it or heard it read in my life.

Mr. Sourwine. Did you write the original of which this is a copy?

Mr. West. Sir, I said I did not author that piece of paper.

Mr. Sourwine. Did you write the original of which this is a copy, Mr. West?

Mr. West. That is what I am trying to say.

(Page 31 of Record)

Mr. Sourwine. You did not?

Mr. West. No, sir, I did not.

Mr. Sourwine. Did you write a--or send in information to be set in a memorandum of this general nature and content at any time?

Mr. West. Not that I recall, sir. As I say, I have never recalled having ever seen or heard this particular paper or writing.

Mr. Morris. Did you know Carl Braden?

Mr. West. Beg your pardon?

Mr. Morris. Do you know Carl Braden?

Mr. West. I would have to take my former position, sir, that I claim the fifth.

Senator Jenner. You might identify him. What is it, Carl Braden, worked formerly for the Courier-Journal and was---

Mr. Morris. Former newspaperman, who was a defendant in a criminal case.

Mr. West. I would have to take the fifth.

Mr. Sourwine. Mr. West, as I understand, you are claiming the fifth amendment on all matters concerning Communist activities or affiliations?

Mr. West. As I say, any questions concerning affiliations and association in the past, I claim the fifth amendment, sir.

Mr. Sourwine. When were you last in Monteagle, Tenn.?

Mr. West. I can't remember, sir, when I was last in Monteagle, Tenn.

Mr. Sourwine. Were you there over the past Labor Day weekend?

Mr. West. You would know that better than I. I was not. That I will answer you flatly, that I was not.

Mr. Sourwine. You were not there?

Mr. West. No, sir.

Senator Jenner. No further questions.

Mr. Morris. I have no questions.

Senator Jenner. Then you may be excused, Mr. West.

Mr. West. May I return home, sir?

Senator Jenner. That is all right.

(Witness excused.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

WEST ON STAFF
 The Southern Appalachian Center in Huntington, West Virginia, an extension of Antioch College, will begin classes September 15, offering five and possibly six courses centered around Appalachian studies, with numerous possibilities for independent study.
 The basic staff for the Center will include Robert Snyder, director, Don West, steward of the Appalachian South Folklife (Please turn to Page 8, Col. 6).

(Continued from Page 1)
 Center at Pipestem, W. Va., and Errol Hess, former instructor at Ohio University. Students at the Center and consultants from outside will supplement this core staff.
 The curriculum for the fall quarter will include Appalachian History, taught by Don West; Appalachian Literature and Creative Writing taught by Errol Hess; Concepts of Science taught by Robert Snyder; possibly Urban Appalachia taught by consultants; and Social Analysis, a course to be developed by students Gary Hawkins and Sherman Miller.
 * * *

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Pages 1 & 8

Hinton Daily News
Hinton, W. Va.

Date: 9/30/71

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

DOMAID LON WAST
JM - C

Character:

or 100-15680

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

SEP - 2 1971

FBI - PITTSBURGH

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Hedy West
To Attend Festival
**Pipestem Folk
Festival Guest
Is Announced**

PIPESTEM — Hedy West, musician and folk singer, will perform at the fourth annual Appalachian South Folk Music Festival at Pipestem, July 30-Aug 1.

Miss West, daughter of Don West, sponsor of the annual event, will perform for the first time at the festival which attracted more than 5,000 folk music lovers last year.

The festival features traditional folk music, song, style and instruments.

While at the Folklife Center, Miss West will teach in the mountain folk music workshop held there for the first time this year.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page #13
(1st Page of Section 2)
The Charleston Gazette
Charleston, W. Va.

Date: 7/27/71

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

DONALD LEE WEST

Character: SM - C

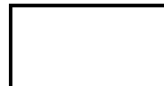
or

Classification: 100-15680-100

Submitting Office:

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DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

(Indicate page, name of
newspaper, city and state.)

Page #3
Hinton Daily News
Hinton, J. Va.

Date: 7/28/71

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Donald Lee West

Sm - C

Character:

or

100-15680-101

Classification:

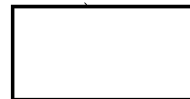
Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

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FEATURED AT FESTIVAL—Hedy West, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don West, will be featured at the Fourth Annual Appalachian South Folk Festival at Pipestem July 30 through August 1. For the past several years Miss West has lived in London, England and performed throughout Europe and the Middle East. A. L. Lloyd, eminent British folklorist and critic, has said of Miss West: "Hedy is a master of the performance style developed in her culture over the centuries... my private view is she is by far the best of the lot." Alan Lomax has written: "Hedy West's

song style and banjo art are true to the bone and marrow of the American mountain style... She performs with finesse, uncompromising honesty and great musical excitement." While at the folklife center, Hedy, a native Appalachian, along with such well known folk musicians as Frank George, Oscar and Gene Wright, Blanton Owens and others, will teach in the mountain music workshop being held there this year for the first time. This folk music workshop is expected to be a regular feature of the center hereafter.

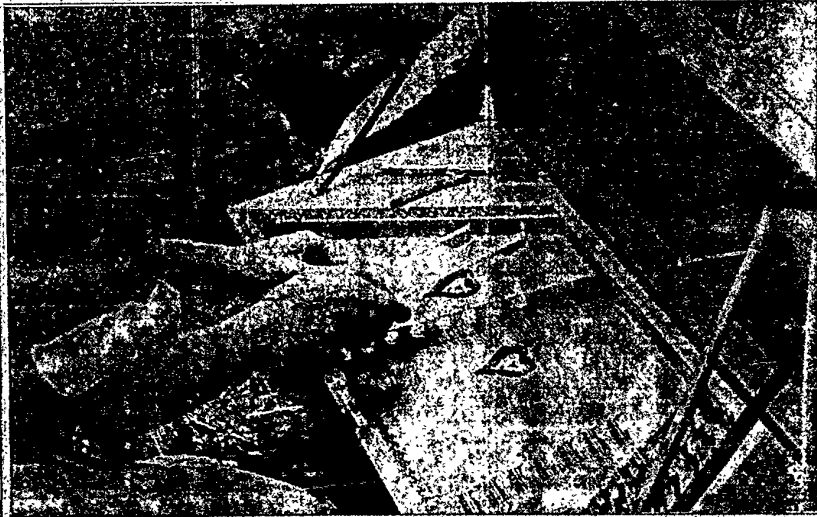


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DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Scenes from Appalachian Folk Festival



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DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



CANDID CAMERA—Visitors at the Appalachian South Folk Festival over the weekend came by the thousands from over 30 states, and they came by every mode of travel imaginable. The youngster above came to the festival papoose style.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page #1
Hinton Daily News
— Hinton, W. Va.

Date: 8/3/71

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:
DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C

Character: 100-15680-103
or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
AUG - 9 1971
FBI - PITTSBURGH



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DATE 11-22-2010 BY 60322 UCLP/PLJ/JN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



BANJO STRUMMING — Performers at the Appalachian South Folk Festival held at Don West's Folklife Center in Pipestem, played a variety of instruments ranging from bagpipes to hammer dulcimers. Above is one performer playing a banjo that he made himself.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page #1
Hinton Daily News
Hinton, W. Va.

Date: 8/3/71

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

DONALD LEE WEST
SM - C

Character:

or 100-15680-104

Classification:

Submitting Office:

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FBI - HINTON

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO. 100-889 R G

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 7-17-41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-9, 10, 17, 18-41	REPORT MADE BY GERALD B. CRAWFORD
TITLE REVEREND DONALD L. HANE		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

INDEXED

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject resides Kennesville, Ga., is a Congregational Preacher, marries, publishes small newspaper, ships literature to American youth organizations, and works his oil field services of Kennesville thru youth social activities, and wife Foreman W. ROY active in carrying on activities and gradually inciting townsfolk.

UNCLASSIFIED

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated April 8, 1941.

DETAILS: This report is made in order to consolidate the information found in the various Atlanta files relating to the subject.

b7D

On May 8, 1941, [redacted] Ga., a World War Veteran and a member of the American Legion, who operates a mercantile store on the main street of that town, came into the office and furnished the following information:

b7D

[redacted] stated that he has known the subject as a church member and fellow townsman since his arrival in the town of Kennesville sometime in August or September 1940. He states that the subject is a Congregational Preacher and lives about one-half a mile north of the center of the town of Kennesville; that the home of the subject is rented either by the subject or the members of the congregation; that the subject attends to three or four churches, the location of which was unknown to the informant; that the subject drives a Willys automobile, either 1939 or 1940. He further stated that the subject is a

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		SEARCHED	SERIALIZED
3 Bureau SEP 30 1955		100-15680-105	
1 Atlanta		SEARCHED	
FBI - BALTIMORE		SERIALIZED	
SEP 15 1965		FBI - RICHMOND	
FBI - RICHMOND		b6	
b7C		[redacted]	

Atlanta, 100-112

man about 35 years of age, tall and fairly dark-skinned, has a cast in one eye (and has been blind), and is ...

It is noted that the subject is married, has two girls, one about three, and the other about six; that the subject has traveled on the continent of Europe and is such a subtle speaker that his congregation does not realize he is influencing them with his ideas.

It was further stated that the subject is printing and distributing a small newspaper called the "Freedom Journal" in the town of Meansville and is shipping literature to the American Peace Mobilization, 1103 Broadway, New York City. He stated also that the subject possessed and operates a printing press in his own residence, and that he either hands the literature to the townsman or mails it to him; that the subject's philosophy is reflected in these papers; that he stirs up class hatred, labor against capital, and his teachings appear to be Communistic.

In addition to the subject's individual activity it was stated that he has obtained the services of others to aid in the distribution of his papers; that one JIM MARTIN, about 25 years of age, son of a farmer near Meansville, and who is a boy who has done no work and is considered a Ne'er-do-well, is now assisting the subject and only recently was sent to New York on some sort of a Congressional Peace meeting; that such a trip is strange since the church has no funds, the boy has none, and the subject has none or at least earns none since his salary is no more than \$135 per month.

It was further stated that one W. ROY SMITH, a WPA foreman, above the average in intelligence, who originally lived in New Brunswick, has been associated with the subject since last winter when his afflicted child became ill; that the subject, MARTIN, and SMITH are together very often, wait for the mail every evening and after the mail comes in they all go across the street to SMITH'S residence which is over the informant's store, and that there they have some sort of a conference.

He further stated that one FRED MCGANEE, Meansville, age about 25, a mechanic who works for the Holloway Canning Co., Meansville, and whose father runs a small shop there, has complained that the talks of the subject have definitely influenced his mother who cannot read or write and that something should be done about it. He added that the cannery workers were afraid that the subject's literature and ideas would provoke a strike, although such has not been the case to date.

It is noted that one DON WEST, a white man, son of CHARLES WEST, reported to be a resident of Kennesaw, Ga., contacted the said LEMANA TANNER very often but the nature of their business is unknown.

Atlanta, 100-589

The file entitled EMMETT REES, San Benito, Texas, Espionage, in reference to report made by Special Agent R. J. GANNY, dated 8-18-40, states that the subject's book of Communistic poems is being printed and distributed throughout the country by the LINDA L. COLLINS, operating the LINDA L. COLLINS at 453 East Packer Street, San Benito, Texas.

It is reported in the file entitled JIM JOHNSON, Espionage, report of Special Agent D. DILILLO, dated 2-14-40, that one KRAMER or JOHNSON drifted south and he along with others organized strikes in the Grarr School just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. He went to Georgia as an organizer of the Young Communist League. Later on he became the assistant of DON WEST, who was the sub-district organizer with offices at Atlanta. When District Attorney BOYKIN stirred up trouble for DON WEST and others, JOHNSON skipped town, and hid for awhile at Anniston, Alabama, and later worked for EARL ISSALL at Birmingham, Alabama.

File entitled JACK PERILLA, Sabotage, in letter from the Bureau to the SAC New York, dated 3-15-40, with memorandums attached, serials one and two, reveals the fact that BEULLE WEST is the purported sister of DON WEST, former minister of the gospel, who was graduated from Vanderbilt University and who subsequently became sub-district organizer for the Communist Party, District 25, Louisville, Kentucky. It further revealed that BEULLE WEST, alias, BEULLE MARTIN, accompanied one JACK PERILLA, FBI # 1036724, an avowed Communist, and that both were arrested by the police in Birmingham, Alabama, during 1936. One BEATRICE ADAMS, FBI # 963652, may be identical with BEULLE MARTIN.

Report made by Special Agent C. A. WHITTEN, Birmingham, Alabama, dated 6-27-40 in the above mentioned case, refers to a memorandum in the files of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & RR Co., Brown Marx Bldg., Birmingham, Alabama, dated 1-23-36, furnished to Special Agent C. A. WHITTEN by Mr. C. R. DAVIS, Chief Deputy of the Tennessee Coal, Iron & RR Co., reflecting the fact that "DON WEST and JACK MARTIN were staying at 1033 Finson Pike, Tarrant City, Alabama, reported to be the home of JESSIE H. OWEN." The report further shows that DON WEST was contributing a column to the Southern News Almanac on 5-11, 15, 20-40, entitled "The Awakening Church", signing his name as Rev. DONALD L. WEST. Information furnished the Atlanta office by Mr. JOHN JOHNSON, attorney, Atlanta, is set forth in the report as follows:

"Mr. JOHNSON advised that during 1934, he had taken an active interest in suppressing subversive activities in the City of Atlanta and that he had started every effort to stop Communist organizations from distributing subversive literature. He stated that during these activities, he came into contact with an individual by the name of DON WEST, who was the son

Atlanta, 100-610

of a Methodist minister; that WEST'S home was in Kennesaw, Georgia, and that he had attended Vanderbilt University for a short time, and while at this institution he had caused a considerable amount of agitation.

Mr. HUDSON further advised that WEST during 1934 at the time of his contact with him, was married and had a small baby. However, he was unable to furnish WEST'S residence in Atlanta. He stated that WEST'S activities in Atlanta consisted of holding meetings in the houses of negroes and poor white laborers; that he was also responsible for the distribution of Communist literature in the vicinity. Mr. HUDSON also advised that WEST was active in Atlanta, Ga. and had an associate by the name of JIM BOURNER who was alleged to be a "stooge" for WEST for the purpose of concealing the latter's identity, and that they frequently exchanged names, since there was a marked resemblance between them and they were able to pass for one another.

Mr. HUDSON stated, however, that inasmuch as considerable action was taken against DON WEST at Atlanta, both WEST and BOURNER left there during 1934 and had not been known to return since that time. Further, that he attempted to have an indictment returned against WEST but was unable to do so on account of insufficient evidence and that about this time, the Supreme Court of the United States had returned a verdict against him in the case of ANGILO MARSHALL, a negro Communist, whom they had convicted for organizing Communist Clubs and distributing literature in Atlanta, and for that reason it was rather difficult to take action against WEST at that time.

Mr. HUDSON further advised that among some Communist literature, which he obtained, was a copy of the Daily Worker, dated 1-11-34, in which there was an article about DON WEST, in which it was stated that WEST had just written a small book of poems called "Between the Plow Hands" and that WEST was at that time in New York City, following his escape from Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. HUDSON also advised that the above referred to article relative to WEST mentioned the fact that he was working on the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners; that he was a young man over six feet in height, with black eye brows, born in Gilmer County, Georgia, in 1903.

Mr. HUDSON furnished the following description of WEST:

Name:	DONALD L. WEST
Age:	About 30
Height:	6' 0"
Weight:	About 150

Atlanta, 100-100

The writer (C. A. [redacted]) ascertained by telephonic contact with L. J. JACKSON, Identification Bureau, Birmingham, Police Department that examination of the files in this Bureau will reveal no record of DON WEST."

File entitled JACK PERRILA, with aliases, Sabotage, in report of Special Agent R. L. KELLY, dated 1-20-41 at Louisville, Kentucky, sets forth the following information: Serial C, page 3 "Reference to the several Louisville City Directories covering a period of several years prior to 1940 developed that the name of one DON WEST and his wife, MADEL WEST, are listed in 1937 as being residents of 1730 Magazine St., Louisville, Ky. WEST is listed as a state organizer for an organization known as the "Workers Alliance of America". The names of ELLIE WEST, with aliases, and subject JACK PERRILA, with aliases, do not appear in any of the Directories during the past several years.

Appropriate inquiries at the office of the Foreman of Carriers, Louisville Central Post Office, developed that the DON WEST living at 1730 Magazine Street left a forwarding address April 18, 1937, as 400 West Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky. No additional information relative to WEST was available at the Post Office.

Subsequent inquiries in the vicinity of 1730 Magazine Street developed that none of the present residents had any knowledge of DON and MADEL WEST. This is true also of ELLIE WEST and her alias MARTIN and JACK PERRILA."

The file entitled BART HUMPHREY LOGAN, Internal Security, in report of Special Agent R. H. WYMAN, Charlotte, N. Carolina, dated 2-20-41 reveals that DONALD L. WEST, presently of the Meansville (Congregational Christian Church, Post Office Box 27, Meansville, Georgia, was publishing a pamphlet entitled "The Country Parson". It is to be noted that DONALD L. WEST is a brother of Mrs. ELLIE WEST LOGAN. This file also contains a letter from ROBERT CARMICHAEL, General Merchant, Meansville, Georgia, enclosing a copy of the "Country Parson" and stating that "it may be harmless but it is calculated to make trouble for someone. The publisher may not be a Fifth Columnist but his doctrine and utterances will accomplish the same ends. Signed ROBERT CARMICHAEL.

In report of Special Agent LEON O. PRIOR, dated 2-8-41, Atlanta, Georgia, additional information from the files of former Fulton County Solicitor JOHN H. HUDSON, is set forth as follows: "One raid conducted by HUDSON in 1934 was on the apartment of a Communist organizer by the name of DON WEST, then living in Atlanta. Many pieces of Communist literature were found in this apartment, including a copy of the following pamphlet:

as follows because it definitely states that the Communist Party in the United States is controlled by Moscow:

Atlanta, 100-889

What is the structure of the Communist Party?

The basic organization is the shop, plantation, or street unit.

All the units in a certain territory - say a city or half a city - are under the leadership of a section. A number of sections in a given territory (a state or several states) are under the leadership of the district. All the districts are under the leadership of the Party's center in New York. There is a Communist Party in every country, all of them belonging to and under the Communist International, which has its headquarters in Moscow. The unit is led by the unit bureau; the section by the section committee; the district by the district committee, the party as a whole by its highest body, the Central Committee (bureau). In the Birmingham district are many sections - for instance, city sections X and Y in Birmingham, then the Atlanta section, the Black Belt section, and the New Orleans section, and so on."

In connection with DON WEST, it will be noted here that in the matter entitled "BART HUNTER LOGAN, with aliases; Internal Security-C", Charlotte, origin, by Special Agent R. M. WILSON, Charlotte, dated 2-20-41, it is stated that WEST is the brother of Mrs. JO LE WEST LOGAN. BART LOGAN is the secretary of the Communist Party of the State of North Carolina. The Atlanta file further indicates that WEST is now living in Maconville, Ga., and is publishing a newspaper known as "The Country Parson". An examination of this paper indicates that it is definitely Communistic. No leads are being set out in this report with regard to WEST inasmuch as a complete investigation of him is being made and will be reported in the previously mentioned case."

A Letter from the Savannah Field Division dated May 14, 1941, enclosed a copy of the "Country Parson" edited by DON WEST having been received through the mails by ROYLT W. ZACKEL, Commander of the American Legion, Brunswick, Post No. 9, Brunswick, Ga. The last issue of the "Country Parson" was forwarded to this office by ROBERT CARMICHAEL of Maconville, Ga., under letter dated 5-12-41 with the following remarks: Following Secretary Stimson's speech, WEST received instructions to get busy, organize clubs, committees, and post pickets as we would soon be at war. The above instructions issued from American Peace Mobilization headquarters over the signature of FRED RICH V. FIELD". On June 3, 1941 a letter was written to the Atlanta office by ROBERT CARMICHAEL of Maconville, Georgia, advising that a large individual, tough, with Jewish features, age about 25 to 30, weight around 185, calling himself CYRUS PORTER and driving an antique car... was received at the Atlanta Field Office in connection with the above letter dated 6-3-41, setting out the contents of a telegram addressed to CYRUS PORTER, being wired through Fort Valley:

Atlanta, 1 - 1

New York City,
7:20 P.M. Tuesday

MR. CYRUS PORTER
MANSVILLE, GEORGIA
BUYING CYCLES OR CABLE CAN LEAVE TOMORROW WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOU
WILL PLACE ORDER TO THE TELEGRAPH.

Signed KOLL.

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION, at Marietta, Georgia will conduct discreet investigation of the subject's activities and determine his present address.

P E N D I N G

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Origin: Atlanta, Georgia

File No. 100-559 INT

Report made at Atlanta, Georgia	Date Made 3-16-42	Period 7-25,30;8-13,17;9-11,19,23,26;10-13,18;11-19;12-1-41 1-7,8,19,20,22-42	Made by S. D. DURFEE
Title (CHANGED) DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases, Rev. Donald L. West, Don West		Character INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS: WEST was active in Communist party in Atlanta, Ga. in 1934 during Angelo Herndon case. WEST claims to have helped Herndon write his book. Subject claims to be one of the founders of the Highland Folk School, Mont-eagle, Tenn. Subject reported to have been active in organizing the Harlan County, Kentucky coal miners in 1935 and 1936 for the C.I.O. Subject served as State organizer for W.A. in Kentucky from 1936 to about 1938. Subject reported to have been active in the American Peace Mobilization in Bethel, Ohio in 1940. From the fall of 1940 to 11-1-41 subject served as Congregational minister in Meansville, Ga., where he edited a small newspaper entitled "The Country Parson". Subject has written two books of poetry entitled "Toil and Hunger" and "Crab Grass". Subject is presently residing on a farm located on Route #3, Cartersville, Ga. Subject was born 6-6-06 in Gilmer County, Ga.

- P -

100-10401-6

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent GERALD B. CRAWFORD dated July 17, 1941 at Atlanta, Georgia

Approved:

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 15 1965	
FBI - RICHMOND	

SAC

- Copies:
- 5-Bureau
 - 3-Louisville
 - 3-Miami
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 - 3-New Haven
 - 3-Pittsburgh
 - 3-Charlotte
 - 3-Memphis
 - 3-New York
 - 3-Indianapolis
 - 3-Atlanta
- 3-Chicago
 - 3-Cincinnati
 - 3-Birmingham
 - 3-Savannah
 - 3-Denver
 - 3-Saint Paul
 - 3-Huntington

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 17 1965	
SEP 30 1966	
FBI - BALTIMORE	

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b7C

100-15680-100

Atlanta, 100-559.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being marked changed to reflect the true name of the subject, together with his known aliases.

Bureau letter dated April 3, 1941 captioned "Rev. DONALD L. WEST - INTERNAL SECURITY - C" advised in substance that the subject had long been a co-munist and was active in Atlanta, Ga. until 1934 when he was forced to leave the state. From about 1936 to 1938 he was State organizer for the Communist Party in Kentucky and thereafter was associated with the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee. Early in 1940 WEST was reported to be in New York City and in April 1940 was said to be located in Minneapolis, Minnesota. During the summer of 1940 WEST was alleged to be active in the work of the American Peace Mobilization at Bethel, Ohio, until he left for Georgia in the fall of the same year.

Informant [redacted] advised subject came to Meansville, Georgia in November 1940. The informant stated that the subject married a northern woman and has two small children. Informant was of the opinion that the subject's wife formerly resided in Bethel, Ohio. He advised that WEST is the Congregational minister in Meansville, Ga., and is continually preaching Communism.

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According to the Informant, the subject has converted one JOEL MATTHEWS into a party member and had sent him to New York for a six months course in a Communist school. He stated that he did not believe subject was publishing "The Country Parson" any more but was distributing Communist literature around the community.

The Informant turned over to the Atlanta office two newspaper clippings which are being retained in the Atlanta files. These newspaper clippings were taken from the Southern News Almanac which was published until recently in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Pike County Journal. The clipping in the Southern News Almanac dated June 6, 1941 under the heading "Awakening Church" by Rev. DONALD L. WEST, discloses that the subject, as of that date, was against war and advocated that America stay out of war because it was a war of the capitalists and imperialistic nations. The clipping dated July 4, 1941 from the Pike County Journal, under the heading "Defend Democratic Ideals" by Rev. DONALD L. WEST, stated that the American people should have no sympathy for Hitler and that America must never submit to Hitler domination. In substance WEST advocated all out aid to the allies. These clippings merely show the change in attitude of WEST after the declaration of war by Germany on Russia on June 22, 1941.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] also turned over to the Atlanta Office a book of poems published by DONALD WEST entitled "Toil and Hunger". This book of poems indicates that the subject is an avid Communist. One of the poems in this book is entitled "Listen, I'm an Agitator". The first line of this poem begins: "Listen...! I am an agitator - They call me 'Red', the color of blood, and - 'Bolshevik'!"

The above book of poems is being retained in the Atlanta file.

Confidential Informant [redacted] further advised that one F. BARRY, Laredo, Texas had wired the subject and had arranged a meeting between the subject and BARRY either at Columbus, Ga., or Atlanta, Ga. on August 27, 1941.

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Inquiry was made of the San Antonio Field Office by letter for any information they might have in their files concerning F. BARRY of Laredo, Texas and the San Antonio Field Office advised that a search of their indices failed to reflect any information concerning BARRY.

On September 26, 1941 Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that DONALD WEST had resigned his pastorate at Meansville, Georgia, effective November 1, 1941. Informant advised that DON WEST had moved his household and personal effects to Cartersville, Georgia, Route 3. He stated that WEST apparently was endeavoring to get into the public school system and had registered with The Teachers Placement Service, Atlanta, Georgia, inasmuch as they had referred him to schools at Abbeville and Monticello, Georgia. Informant stated that on September 22, 1941 WEST had received a communication from ALTON LAWRENCE, Atlanta, Georgia, which said "forced to cancel employment, letters follows." It is to be noted that LAWRENCE is a labor leader in Atlanta.

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The Informant forwarded a letter from a friend of WEST in New York City. This letter is dated September 12, 1941, New York, N. Y. The letter is addressed to "Dear Friend Don" and is signed "Harold". Inasmuch as this letter sets out a great deal of information concerning some of WESTS' friends, the letter is being set forth below:

"Dear Friend Don:

I was very glad to hear from you again, and am replying much sooner than my usual wont. Since Celia and I are having to park with a friend until something comes along financially, I am having to write in longhand rather than bang the typewriter. We have been having a tough battle with poverty right now, and poverty has us down for the count of nine."

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"I have mentioned you to Harry Koger, and will write to him more fully when he replies to my recent letter. After seeing Don Henderson's treatment of Claude Williams in Chicago last year, I doubt very much if you would be able to get on with U S A P A W A. However, Harry now draws his wages from the C.I.O. Int'l Woodworkers of America.

"I have no influence with any of those contacts I mentioned except Koger. If I am able to cement those contacts, I may be able to do something later on. They are people with whom I have a bare speaking acquaintance. If I tried to presume upon that acquaintance, it would do you more harm than good.

"Is there any possibility of your linking up with the new Georgia Fact Finding Committee and getting some support from them in your work etc? A recent number of Atlantic Monthly had a story written by David Cohn about it. And have you thought of inserting an ad in Editor or Publisher to see about getting a job as religious editor or feature writer on some newspaper. This may seem snug, but I do not feel that you should embark on any crusade without some assurance that your wife and babies continue to eat.

"Possibly you might be able to syndicate your column, The Awakening Church, to some of the labor papers, particularly since you could send them galleys from your own press.

"By the way, another progressive poet, Keene Wallis, who is with us temporarily, sends his regards plus the hope of making your acquaintance some day. Keene has a great admiration for your column. You may have read some of his verse. His second book, published by Coward-McCann, is due this fall.

"Some friends of mine here are starting a monthly magazine for campers and hikers. I wish you would send them something about your hiking experiences in Europe along with your picture. Be sure to tell how you managed to get by in your travels plus any good advice to hikers.

"Send the (illegible) to Ruth Widen, Box 10, Sta. C, New York, and do not be afraid of taking a moderately social slant. The mag. probably will not pay at the start, but it will be another means of extending your audience.

"Ruth and her husband, Lew Ney, once published 'The Latin Quarterly', one of the best of the Village magazines. Ironically enough, Lew comes from my home town in Austin, Texas - the black sheep of a respectable Lutheran family. I know his brother who is president of the Texas"

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"Retail Credit Mens Association. Lew took his present surname from the great sculptress and libertarian, Elisabet Ney, who lived an exiles existence in Austin and who was his friend.

"I am engaged in some correspondence with Ben Patrick of North Carolina, whom I have never met but who recently spent a day with Mike. I should like to know from Mike what he thinks of Ben and how far I can go with him.

"Thanks for the copies of 'The Statesman' - it is, without doubt the most despicable sheet that I have ever seen. The name of that town, Hopeville, ought to be spelled with a T. Incidentally, a mutual friend in Atlanta sent me a copy of a leaflet against 'foreigners' which the KKK had put out in a middle class Jewish district.

"I wish that you would send Ga. farm and labor stories occasionally to Federated Press, 30 Irving Place, N. Y. C. - even when you rewrite them with the correct angle from the Atlanta papers. If you send them the stuff they will provide you with a press card, air mail stamped envelopes, and typewriter ribbons. I found an F P press card to be very handy when I was working in the South.

Write soon,

/s/ Harold"

Informant advised that DON WEST had been elected to teach school at Shady Dale, Georgia. He did not know whether WEST had accepted this appointment or not.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that [redacted] R. C. WIGLEY, Justice of the Peace, Kennesaw, Georgia, and was informed by him that the subject's sister, ELSIE WEST ROSS was in Russia and that another sister, DELLA WEST ROSS was working for a Communist newspaper in Birmingham, Alabama.

On interview, R. C. WIGLEY advised that the WEST family lived for years in Kennesaw, Georgia. He stated that DONALD WEST is a Communist and that he has influenced the entire WEST family to become Communists. WIGLEY

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did not know the family very well personally and directed the writer to ROBERT LEE HOWELL, who is a farmer in the Kennesaw community.

Mr. HOWELL advised that he has lived in the Kennesaw community for a great number of years and that the J. O. WEST family moved to Kennesaw approximately 17 years ago from Ellijay, Georgia, which is located in Gilmer County. HOWELL stated that J. O. WEST, the father of the subject, died approximately three years ago and soon after, Mrs. J. O. WEST, nee LILLIE HULKY, moved to DONALD WEST'S farm near Cass Station, which is a short distance from Cartersville, Georgia. HOWELL stated that DONALD WEST is one of the leaders of the Communists in the United States and had worked all over the United States for the Communist Party. He stated that the subject attended school at one time in Europe and traveled extensively in Europe. HOWELL was unable to give the dates of the subject's sojourn in Europe but stated that it was a number of years ago.

HOWELL stated that WEST has influenced every member of the J. O. WEST family to join the Communist Party, with the exception of one individual CHARLIE WEST, the brother of the subject. HOWELL stated that CHARLIE WEST is a fine boy and does not follow the Communist Party line.

HOWELL stated that Mrs. WEST quite often stops at his home when she is passing through Kennesaw on her way to Meansville, Georgia, where DONALD WEST has been preaching in the Congregational Church. He advised that Mrs. WEST and her daughter, DELLA ROSS, the wife of MIKE ROSS, stopped to see him on August 23, 1941 for a few minutes on her way to Birmingham where DELLA was to meet her husband, MIKE ROSS. HOWELL stated that DELLA is the oldest of the WEST children.

The next child of the WEST family is ELSIE WEST ROSS, the wife of NAT ROSS. HOWELL stated that ELSIE WEST ROSS went to Russia a few years ago and is now in Denmark or at least that was what Mrs. J. O. WEST claims.

Mr. HOWELL stated that the next child in the J. O. ROSS family is CLEITHA BELL WEST, who is married to BART HUNTER LOGAN. LOGAN is the leader of the Communist Party in North Carolina.

The next child, according to HOWELL, is DELLA WEST, who is presently married to MIKE ROSS, who is also active in the Communist Party in North Carolina. HOWELL advised that BART LOGAN and MIKE ROSS live in High Point, North Carolina, or at least did when he last heard of them.

The last member in the family, according to HOWELL, is [redacted] who is approximately [redacted] and is attending school in the Cass community where Mrs. J. O. WEST is residing.

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HOWELL stated that DONALD WEST was well educated, strong as an ox but disloyal to the United States. HOWELL was of the opinion that DONALD WEST would resort to violence if necessary in order to gain his ends. He stated that about two years ago WEST started to build a school on a 20 acre plot near Kennesaw, Georgia but quit before he had finished because he was told that the Ku Klux Klan would burn it down. HOWELL stated, however, that WEST had built a cabin on this 20 acre plot and had held meetings which were attended by the negroes in that community.

HOWELL advised that he had been following the activities of DONALD WEST for a number of years and that WEST was at one time an agitator at the Mount Berry School, located in Rome, Georgia.

HOWELL displayed a book entitled "Songs for Southern Workers", which was prepared by DON WEST when he was a State organizer for the Kentucky Worker's Alliance. The fly page of this book discloses that this book of songs was published by the State Executive Board, Kentucky Worker's Alliance, 400 Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky in May 1937. A preface to this book of songs was written by GILES COOPER, President of the Kentucky Worker's Alliance. In this preface COOPER states that "DON WEST was born in the mountain country of the South. He was brought up in poverty. By hard work he managed to get an education; he won a scholarship to travel and study in Europe; his opportunity to rise in the world was good but DON realized if he rose financially it would be at the expense of stomping his fellow worker down deeper into poverty. DON could never do that. He gave up what many would consider an easy life and fine opportunity for success and came back to live with his people. "When I rise", WEST says, "it will be when the great mass of my own common people rise in one big united movement.. 'No honest son of toilers will ever crush his fellows down for greedy financial gain'. His ability and courage to lead, even in the face of jails and gun thugs has won confidence and respect. Don is at present State organizer for the Kentucky Worker's Alliance. We are glad to have him with us."

One of the poems written by WEST in the above mentioned song book is entitled "My Country 'tis of thee", with words as follows:

"My country 'tis of thee
Land of mass misery,
Of this I sing.
Land where workers toil
And bosses reap the spoil
Where children starve and freeze
From fall til spring."

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"My native country thee,
Our fathers fought to free
You from a king.
And in their steps we tread
Righting for meat and bread,
Workers, lift up your head--
Let freedom ring!

The union now, you see--
Our hope for liberty,
Of it we sing!
Let Southern voices sound
With union all around
The mountain side rebound
With songs we sing!"

The above book of songs is being retained in the Atlanta file. ✓

Special Agent B. J. TRAEGER conducted the following investigation in Gilmer County:

Both the Superintendent of the School, F. E. PETIT, Gilmer County, and Ordinary HOLDER, of Gilmer County, advised that they were unable to locate any birth record for the subject.

Special Agent A. W. NEALE conducted the following investigation at Mount Berry, Georgia:

The scholastic record maintained at the office of the Mount Berry Schools reflected that DONALD WEST had attended the Mount Berry School from 1922 to 1926, receiving above average grades. A notation was placed upon his school record showing that he left school July 1, 1926, dissatisfied.

Dr. GREEN of the Mount Berry School advised that when WEST left school in 1926 he had told Dr. GREEN that he was not in harmony with the school system and was leaving for that reason. Dr. GREEN advised that the subject at one time was highly regarded because he was definitely above average in intelligence but Dr. GREEN stated the school's attitude changed when it was learned that the subject had attempted to persuade the pupils at Mount Berry to strike because the school was supported by capitalistic groups and because the school demanded a small tuition from the students. Dr. GREEN stated that WEST was considered to be a Communist agitator for his actions and beliefs at Mount Berry.

It is to be noted that the Mount Berry Schools have received considerable money from HENRY FORD in order to carry on their school program.

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Mount Berry is an industrial school.

The records at Mount Berry further disclosed that the subject's complete name is DONALD LEE WEST and he was born June 6, 1906 in Gilmer County, Georgia. His father's name was given as J. O. WEST and his occupation as a farmer.

On January 7, 1942 Confidential Informant [redacted] was contacted in [redacted] Georgia, and advised that the subject had resigned his pastorate effective November 1, 1941. The Informant stated that WEST had moved to Cartersville, Georgia. He advised that the subject was considered to be a Communist by the citizens of the Meansville community and there was no doubt in his mind that the subject is a Communist. Informant advised that JOEL MATTHEWS was presently residing on his father's farm, which is located two miles from Meansville, Georgia; also that information concerning the subject might be obtained from F. L. FACKLER, owner of the Halloway Canning Company in Meansville, Georgia.

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Mr. F. L. FACKLER, Meansville, Georgia, was contacted and advised that he had seen the subject on numerous occasions visiting in colored people's homes. He was unable to give any information as to what the subject was discussing with the colored people but did state that it was his opinion that the subject was spreading Communist literature in and around Meansville, Georgia. FACKLER advised that the subject and JOEL MATTHEWS published a local newspaper called "The Country Parson", which was very radical in its view points. He stated that "The Country Parson" was definitely against the Roosevelt administration.

FACKLER stated that prior to June 22, 1941 he had on two or three occasions heard the subject deliver sermons in the Congregational Church in Meansville, Georgia. From these sermons FACKLER advised that it was his opinion that the subject was a German sympathizer in that the subject was definitely against the United States sending any aid or supplies to Great Britain. FACKLER stated that he had not heard the subject preach since June 22, 1941. He stated that from his observations the subject was definitely a Communist.

Mr. R. R. CARTER, owner of Carter's grocery store, Meansville, Georgia, advised that he had heard it stated by various individuals in Meansville that the subject was a Communist but that he could not verify this inasmuch as he had not had any contact with the subject. CARTER stated that he had heard that WEST was going to prosecute a few fellows in Meansville for slander. Mr. CARTER referred the writer to Mr. McGAHEE, local black-smith.

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Mr. A. C. MCGAHEE, Meansville, Georgia, advised that he was serving as Treasurer of the Meansville Congregational Church. He stated that in this capacity he had the opportunity on several occasions to talk with the subject who was serving in the capacity of pastor of the Congregational Church. MCGAHEE stated that WEST was definitely in favor of labor unions and that they had had some arguments over that view point. He also advised that he saw a book of poems which was published by the subject and in this book of poems the subject stated he was an agitator. MCGAHEE advised that the subject was agitating the negroes around the Meansville community to ask for higher wages. MCGAHEE said "if that isn't Communism, I don't understand what Communism means."

MCGAHEE also stated that the subject on one occasion exhibited a moving picture in the Congregational Church which was against imperialistic England. He stated that the subject edited a small newspaper called "The Country Parson", which was very radical in nature. He advised that subject's attitude towards England and the Roosevelt administration in the United States definitely changed after Germany invaded Russia. He stated subject had always talked for peace and had continuously advocated that America stay out of war. He advised that subject often severely criticized the Roosevelt administration, stating that the administration was taking America into an imperialistic war.

After June 22, MCGAHEE said that the subject was definitely in favor of America aiding the allies. He stated in his mind there was no doubt that the subject was a radical and belonged to some subversive group. MCGAHEE further advised that he seriously doubted whether the subject actually believed in any religion, even though he was acting in Meansville as pastor of the Congregational Church.

MCGAHEE stated that the Congregational Church paid the subject a salary of \$1,200 per year, that the subject came to Meansville in November, 1940 and resigned as pastor of the Congregational Church effective November 1, 1941.

J. E. OWENS, farmer, Meansville, Georgia, Trustee of the Meansville Congregational Church, advised that the subject was the pastor of the Congregational Church in Meansville and also served as pastor of the Liberty Chapel, Jones Chapel and Crest Church, which are rural churches in Meansville, Georgia. OWENS appeared to be very reluctant about discussing subject but did state that if the subject had not resigned he would have been asked to resign at the end of his one year term. OWENS

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advised that it was the general opinion around Meansville that the subject was a radical.

A. J. McCORD, farmer, Meansville, Georgia, advised that in his opinion the subject is a Communist. He stated that when the subject first came to Meansville in the fall of 1940 he had liked the subject very much. He stated that he had gone around the country with the subject in an effort to reorganize the farmers union, however, in traveling with the subject, McCORD stated that he soon ascertained that the subject was a radical and that his view points were not those of a loyal American. McCORD said that the subject was constantly criticizing the Roosevelt administration, stating that the administration was favoring the capitalists in the United States.

McCORD also stated that subject was very much against war and any possibility of America sending any supplies to England. He stated that the subject severely criticized the Roosevelt administration because it was leading America into war. He stated that subject maintained the above view point until July 1, 1941 and since that time has been strongly in favor of America entering the present war and sending aid to its allies.

McCORD stated that the subject printed a local newspaper called "The Country Parson", in which he expressed very radical viewpoints. He advised that the subject had edited a book of poems entitled "Toil and Hunger" in which the subject openly stated he was an agitator and a "Red". McCORD stated there was no doubt in his mind but that the subject was a Communist and a person who was disloyal to the United States.

G. B. HUTCHINSON, Superintendent of the Meansville Schools, Meansville, Georgia, advised that he had little contact with the subject but the few times he had engaged the subject in conversation he had obtained the opinion that the subject was very radical. He stated that he had read a book of poems which the subject had written and that it was very apparent from this book of poems that subject was a Communist. HUTCHINSON advised that the subject also wrote articles for a newspaper called "The Southern News Almanac", which was published in Birmingham, Alabama.

It is to be noted that The Southern News Almanac which was published in Birmingham, Alabama, is no longer in existence, having discontinued because of financial difficulties.

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Miss LUCY S. COCHRAN, Postmistress, Meansville, Georgia, was contacted with negative results.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that he believed JOEL MATTHEWS would talk freely concerning the subject if contacted. Informant advised that MATTHEWS had been closely associated with the subject and apparently had been under his influence, but since the subject had moved from Meansville, MATTHEWS had been talking rather freely about the subject's activities. b2 b7D

Accordingly JOEL MATTHEWS was contacted at his father's farm, which is located approximately two miles from Meansville, Georgia. MATTHEWS stated that he had been closely associated with the subject the first six months of 1941 in that he had helped the subject edit a newspaper called "The Country Parson". MATTHEWS advised that WEST edited this newspaper in his official capacity as pastor of the Meansville Congregational Church, Meansville, Georgia.

MATTHEWS stated there was no doubt but that WEST was a Communist and would always follow the party line. MATTHEWS gave the following signed statement.

"Atlanta, Georgia
January 8, 1942

"I, Joel Mathews, give the following signed statement to S. D. DURFEE knowing him to be a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to me and I am making this statement of my own free will. My constitutional rights have been explained to me and I know that this statement can be used against me in a court of law.

"I am presently residing in Meansville, Georgia on my father's farm which is located approximately two miles from Meansville.

"I first came to know Reverend Donald L. West around Christmas time of 1940. West was then acting as the minister of the Meansville Congregational Christian Church. West came to Meansville around September of 1940.

"In January, 1941 West started editing a newspaper, "The Country Parson." I helped him print this paper. This paper was very pro-labor in attitude and anti-war. West at that time was very much opposed to the United States"

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aiding the allies in any way and strongly urged that the United States stay out of the war. I, too, was opposed to war. West printed the paper in a back room of his home in Meansville, Georgia. West told me that he wanted to learn to operate the printing press so that he would be able to operate the press when the Communist Party was underground. West told me about his trip in Europe and how he was particularly impressed with the underground work of the Communist Party in Germany.

"When I first met Donald West he told me that he was not a member of the Communist Party. He told me this first after he received several copies of 'Soviet Power' by the Dean of Canterbury. West, also, received a great deal of literature from the American Peace Mobilization headquarters in New York City. West induced me to attend a meeting of the American Peace Mobilization in New York City in April around the sixth and seventh of April. He arranged a ride for me to New York City through the Southern News Almanac, newspaper, Birmingham, Alabama. I rode to New York City in an automobile driven by Sidney Rittenburg of Birmingham, Alabama. We were accompanied on this trip by Anne K. Lee and Joseph Gelder's daughter, both of Birmingham, Alabama. ~~There was one other individual who went with us that I don't recall.~~ West drove me to Atlanta and Rittenburg picked me up at the Atlantian Hotel in Atlanta.

"I, also, attended the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee at the instigation of Donald West. Myles Horton, director of Highlander Folk School, had written to West and stated that West could give a scholarship to anyone that he desired and so I went on West's scholarship. I attended this school two weeks in May, 1941. This school is a labor school. I did not notice anything that would indicate that it was a Communist school. I did learn that the Communist Party had a member attending this school and his name was Sidney Rittenburg. I heard later that Sidney Rittenburg was the executive secretary of the League of Young Southerners with offices in Birmingham, Alabama. This League of Young Southerners is Communist controlled.

"Donald L. West told me that he was one of the original founders of the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee. Myles Horton told me that they didn't care to have West's name associated with the Highlander Folk School because of the fear of being accused of being a Communist organization, and of being investigated by the Dies Committee. I don't believe Horton is a Communist.

"Donald L. West, also, told me during the course of my association with him that he, West, lived in Atlanta on five dollars a week during the time Angelo Herndon, colored, was being tried by authorities in Atlanta for spreading seditious material with the intention to incite a riot."

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"West claimed that he helped investigate Herndon's case for the Communist Party and later helped Herndon write a book on Herndon's life. I don't know the date West said he did this in Atlanta but I believe it was some where around 1932 to 1934.

"West, also, told me about helping out in the textile strike at Rossville, Georgia in 1934 or 1935.

"West told me that he was an organizer for the C.I.O. in Harlan County, Kentucky and bragged about being thrown into the same jail with Theodore Dreiser. West said that he was severely beaten and the material that he, West, had for the coal mine strikers was taken from him. West claimed to have received a letter from John L. Lewis commending him, West, for his services and work in the coal fields. I don't recall the date West stated that all this happened.

"I have met Hardy Scott, Secretary of the Communist Party for Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia. I had been to Atlanta on several occasions with Donald L. West and he had left me sitting in his car while he went up to Scott's apartment at 680 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia. West always returned with Communist literature which he would give me to read. It wasn't until sometime in May, 1941 that West felt that I had been sufficiently conditioned in the Communist Party line in order to introduce me to Scott. West also introduced me to Nathan Katz whom I later learned through Hardy Scott is a Communist Party member.

"I was with Donald West the night Germany marched into Russia and it was then that I was sure West was a Communist. Prior to that date West had been extremely against United States going to war and of giving any aid to England but that night West immediately stated that the United States would have to give all possible aid to Russia and England in order to help them defeat Germany. West was very astonished that night when he heard Russia and Germany were at war but he very definitely changed his view points immediately and came out for all possible aid to Russia and England even to the extent of hoping that the United States would join with Russia and England in defeating Germany.

"I left Meansville, Georgia around the first of July, 1941 and came to Atlanta. West resigned as minister of the Meansville Congregational Christian Church in September, 1941 effective November 1, 1941. He moved from Meansville to Cartersville, Georgia where he has a farm.

"West wrote me a letter around the last of August, 1941 and stated that he felt his work in Meansville, Georgia had been worthless except for finding me and getting me started on the right path. West stated that he"

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"hoped that I would become something in the labor movement and indicated that he hoped I would join the Communist Party.

"I never knew of Donald West to hold any other meetings at Meansville, Georgia than his church services. So far as I know he never held any meetings with the negroes. He did allow the negro cook to sit down and eat with him and his family at meal time for I saw that happen. West treated the negroes as his social equal.

"Donald West will always be right in line with the Communist Party and will always follow it.

"West has a sister in Russia who is married to a high Communist official but I don't recall his name. This sister writes under the name of Janet Weaver. He has another sister, Belle West, who is married to Bart Hunter Logan who is the Secretary of the Communist Party in North Carolina.

Donald West has another sister married to Mike Ross and her name is Della Ross. Della is usually called 'Buddy'. Mike Ross is also active in the Communist Party.

"I have read the foregoing statement consisting of ten pages and have initialed each page. It is true to the best of my knowledge and I am signing my name to this statement voluntarily.

/s/ Joel Matthews

Witnessed:
S. D. Durfee, F.B.I."

The above statement is being retained in the files of the Atlanta Office.

MATTHEWS came to the Atlanta Office on January 20, 1942 in order to furnish the writer more information concerning WEST and other Communists he had known through his associations with WEST. MATTHEWS stated that HOMER L. PIKE, a C.I.O. organizer, follows the leadership of HARDY SCOTT, Secretary of the Communist Party for Georgia. SCOTT is the subject of an Atlanta file entitled "HARDY LEE SCOTT, with aliases, ESPIONAGE - C".

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MATTHEWS stated that SCOTT, PIKE and the subject of instant case made a trip to Elberton, Georgia around the first of July, 1941, where WEST spoke to a group of colored workers at Elberton. MATTHEWS stated that since that date PIKE has been organizing the Quarry Workers in Elberton, Georgia, for the C.I.O. MATTHEWS stated that SCOTT kept PIKE supplied with Communist literature.

MATTHEWS advised that WEST poses as a preacher but is a professed atheist; that WEST and another noted Communist, CLAUDE WILLIAMS, believed that they can work through the church and convert the south to Communism.

According to MATTHEWS, WEST founded a religion called "Institute of Applied Religion" at Little Rock, Arkansas. He advised that WILLIAMS is a retired Presbyterian minister and formerly served as pastor at Paris, Arkansas.

MATTHEWS advised that one HOWARD LEE, who was for a time connected with the Southern Conference of Human Welfare, is a Communist and is one of CLAUDE WILLIAMS' converts. He stated that at one time HOWARD LEE considered building a Proletariat Temple in Arkansas.

MATTHEWS advised that ALVA K. TAYLOR, Vanderbilt University, is the individual responsible for converting WEST to Communism. TAYLOR was later ascertained to have resigned from Vanderbilt and MATTHEWS does not know where he is located at the present time.

WEST also attended Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, where he met his wife, MABEL ADAMS. MATTHEWS advised that MABEL ADAMS WEST is as much of a Communist as her husband DONALD WEST. He stated that the WESTS have two small children,

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MATTHEWS stated that subject bragged about organizing a group of volunteers in Kentucky for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, which went to Spain and fought for the Loyalist Government. According to MATTHEWS, subject claimed to have persuaded thirty or more individuals to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and to have raised several hundred dollars for the Brigade. WEST told MATTHEWS that he had persuaded his wife's brother to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and that subsequently his wife's brother was killed in Spain fighting for the cause.

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MATTHEWS advised that all the information given by him to the writer was told to him by the subject.

MATTHEWS recalled that WEST went to Birmingham, Alabama in July 1941 with BART HUNTER LOGAN, MIKE ROSS and HARDY SCOTT to see ROBERT F. HALL, Secretary of the Communist Party for District 17.

It is to be noted that BART HUNTER LOGAN is Secretary of the Communist Party for North Carolina, and is a brother-in-law of the subject. MIKE ROSS is also a brother-in-law of the subject and MIKE ROSS is likewise active in the Communist Party in North Carolina. HARDY SCOTT is previously mentioned as Secretary of the Communist Party in Georgia and did reside in Atlanta. At the present time HARDY SCOTT is located in Baltimore, Maryland, where he was recently transferred by the National Headquarters of the Communist Party.

MATTHEWS stated that WEST came to Atlanta quite frequently and on his trips to Atlanta he also stopped to see SAM FEINBERG and NATHAN KATZ. WEST told MATTHEWS that while he was working on the Angelo Herndon case in Atlanta in 1933 or 1934, FEINBERG was always good for some food and that he would quite frequently go out to FEINBERG'S store and eat.

It is to be noted that both FEINBERG and KATZ are subjects of internal security cases in the Atlanta Field Division. KATZ is the leader of the Jewish Section or POTTERBERG GROUP in Atlanta.

MATTHEWS advised that WEST spoke at a "Smash Hitler Committee" picnic in Atlanta, Georgia in September 1941. This picnic was held at Weinstock's in Atlanta. MATTHEWS stated that the picnic was attended almost entirely by Jews, there being about 25 in attendance. He advised that this picnic was arranged by NATHAN and ANNIE KATZ. MATTHEWS recalled that GEORGE GREENE visited with WEST during the summer of 1941 and had helped WEST on the Cunningham peonage case which WEST worked on in Oglethorpe County for some Communist front organization in Chicago, at their request. MATTHEWS was unable to recall the name of this organization.

MATTHEWS advised that he did not know where GEORGE GREENE lived or his background but he understood that GREENE was a divinity student at Yale University.

MATTHEWS advised that WEST hated RALPH MCGILL, Editor of the Atlanta Constitution newspaper, because in an editorial MCGILL had made the statement that he hoped German and Russian Communists would kill each other in the present war.

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MATTHEWS also advised that both DONALD WEST and HARDY SCOTT referred to the F.B.I. as the Gestapo. MATTHEWS stated that WEST had in his possession a .45 caliber pistol and a black jack and that WEST had told him that if anybody ever endeavored to pick him up for any reason whatsoever he would kill as many as he could before they got him. MATTHEWS advised that it was his opinion that WEST would be an exceedingly dangerous individual should anyone ever attempt to arrest him.

MATTHEWS gave the writer several copies of "The Country Parson" which are being retained in the Atlanta files. He also gave the writer a little magazine entitled "Span". MATTHEWS advised that he and the subject printed this magazine for JOSEPH HOFFMAN, Route 13, Kirkwood, Missouri. MATTHEWS was not certain but believed that he and WEST printed this magazine only two months. The magazine "Span" claims to be a herald of reaty and is a magazine of verse and prose. The following individuals made contributions to the "Span" for the April-May issue of 1941: H. H. LEWIS; HENRY G. WEISS; ALFRED LOCKWOOD; MARY GRAHAM; ISABELL KELLOG HAGLUND; ALBERT CLEMENTS; JUDSON C. CREWS; LUCIA TRENT; JACK GREENBERG; RALPH CHENEY; AUGUST DERLETER; EDWIN C. GRABER; J. PATRICK BYRNE; LILLITH LORRAINE; C. B. JONES and the subject.

The addresses of the various individuals mentioned above are not disclosed in the magazine.

A perusal of the magazine "Span" indicates that it is extremely radical in nature and that the contributors thereto are following the Communist Party line. ELLIS W. KOKEN is listed as an associate editor of this magazine along with WEST and JOEL MATTHEWS.

In the April-May issue 1941 of the "Country Parson", edited by the subject in Meansville, Georgia, there is a letter directed to the editor from HELEN H. GINGMAN, Executive Secretary, Conference of Southern Mountain Workers, Berea College, Berea, Kentucky. GINGMAN stated that she was deeply enthused and interested in what WEST had to say in his newspaper and the courage with which he said it.

The above is set forth for the information of the Louisville Field Office.

This same issue of the "Country Parson" carries a one page advertisement of the magazine "Friday", which is published at 114 East 32nd Street, New York City, with the notation that the "Country Parson" endorses "Friday" and which states that ever citizen of Georgia and the south should read and study "Friday".

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In the May, 1941 issue of "The Country Parson" there is set forth an article entitled "A Challenge to Christian Youth of America", which editorial is signed "The Religious Commission, American Youth Congress, 230 Fifth Ave., New York City". There is also set forth an editorial entitled "American Peace Mobilization" on religion, which editorial is signed "Rev. JOHN B. THOMPSON, Presbyterian Church, Norman, Oklahoma, Chairman, Miss MARIAM BRIGGS, 1133 Broadway, New York City, National Secretary."

There is also a column about Congressman VITO MARCANTONIO, stating that he is a champion of peoples rights, bitter foe of war and fighter for peace, who has consistently opposed every step of the Wall Street imperialists toward involvement in this war. The above is set forth in this report to disclose the trend and the attitude of "The Country Parson", which was published by the subject of instant case.

MATTHEWS also gave to the writer a small pamphlet entitled "A Christian Fellowship Message", which was published by Rev. DONALD L. WEST, with no date of publication given. This publication in substance states that the great majority of the American people do not want war. The present war is a war of rival imperialism and there is danger of America being dragged into the war, quoting from this pamphlet "But don't forget, we are in danger of being dragged in! Look what happened to the embargo against the overwhelming sentiment of the people. America's own imperialists, our Wall Street bankers, chase the dollar just as desperately as do the British or French or German. Profits come first for the profiteers. It makes no difference how much innocent blood may be smeared over them. Profits and blood flow well together. So the first step is to work up a sympathy on one side. Wall Street is cast in the role of a saintly warrior, a Gallahad, for democracy--but American boys of the common folks will do the dying. And unless the mighty voice of the common people who love peace can be united against war strong enough to send the war rats back to their holes, in we go!" "Look at the late Spanish debacle. When Franco, Hitler and Mussolini were crushing Spanish Democracy, did Britain, France, or our own government rush gallantly to the aid of embattled democracy? Far from it. Our government held doggedly onto the arms embargo, refusing to sell to the Spanish democratic government, but hypocritically ignoring Hitler's and Mussolini's hold in Spain, sold to them and enabled them to smash Spanish democracy! We hypocritically held onto the embargo then, but now that another imperialist war is on, we rush in with a special session and left the embargo! We are immediately told that we must take sides."

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"Little by little, step by step, as in the last war, we are dragged toward the brink. We are told that we must help those 'heroic fighters for democracy and freedom of small nations', Britain and France, who for centuries have themselves kept millions of colonial slaves in bondage! Do we forget that our own nation had to fight to free itself from the British yoke? Isn't it clear to us now that neither we nor the cause of democracy can hope to gain anything by us taking part in this present struggle for loot--colonies, markets, profits?"

MATTHEWS advised that the above leaflet was written and published by WEST in the Spring of 1941 and shows the subject's attitude toward war prior to June 22, 1941, when Germany marched into Russia. MATTHEWS advised that when WEST heard the news that Germany had marched into Russia he completely changed his attitude and was all for America entering the present war.

As mentioned previously in this report, WEST in an article printed in the Pike County Journal, Pike County, Georgia, on July 4, 1941 ~~came out in an article against Germany and urged that Germany be stopped at all costs.~~

It is to be noted in connection with the above pamphlet by DONALD WEST, several copies of this pamphlet were found through a confidential source, in the possession of HARDY SCOTT, 630 West Peachtree, Atlanta, Georgia, who is Secretary of the Communist Party for Georgia.

On January 22, 1942 Sheriff G. W. GADDIS, Bartow County, Catersville, Georgia, was contacted and he advised that the subject was living on a farm about two miles from a little town called Cassville, which is located about six miles from Cartersville, Georgia. GADDIS advised that a few weeks back he had gone out and visited DONALD WEST with the intention of searching his premises to see if he could find anything which might indicate that WEST was involved in subversive activities. GADDIS stated, however, that WEST was very accommodating and showed the sheriff all over his premises. The sheriff advised that he saw nothing which would indicate that the subject was engaged in subversive activities, however, the sheriff advised that WEST has had for years the reputation of being a Communist and is known throughout Bartow County as a Communist. The sheriff stated that WEST had advised him that he would like to become an Army chaplain.

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Sheriff GADDIS stated that it was his opinion that if WEST obtained a position as Army chaplain it would be dangerous to the welfare of the United States because he believed that WEST would endeavor to convert the soldiers into Communists. The sheriff was unable to give any specific statements or acts committed by subject which would have a tendency to show that subject was a Communist, with the exception that the sheriff recalled that the subject was active several years ago in agitating the students at Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia, to strike.

Sheriff GADDIS advised that SAM PITTARD of Cassville, Georgia, might possibly know a great deal concerning the subject.

GUY W. ATKINSON, pastor, First Baptist Church, Cartersville, Georgia, advised that he did not know the subject. He stated that he was surprised that the subject had not contacted him, inasmuch as the subject is a preacher. ATKINSON advised that should the subject ever contact him he would endeavor to ascertain his beliefs and philosophy concerning the United States Government and would immediately advise the Atlanta Field Office of such beliefs.

Mr. JOEL NELSON, Postmaster, Cartersville, Georgia, stated that he knew nothing definite about the subject with the exception that the subject was known to be a radical and suspected generally by people of being a Communist. NELSON advised that he had never had an opportunity to converse with the subject.

NELSON furnished the writer a book of poems written by the subject entitled "Crab Grass". This book of poems is being retained in the Atlanta Field Division.

S. M. PITTARD, merchant, Cassville, Georgia, advised that the subject was presently living on a farm located about two miles from Cassville back in a section known as the "Devil's Hollow". PITTARD stated that WEST had been in and out from this farm on many occasions during the last three years. He advised that he believed WEST had been living at Meansville, Georgia the past year and had returned to Cassville only recently. PITTARD stated that the subject is known to be a radical and that he would testify if called upon that the subject is a Communist. He was unable to give any specific statements made by the subject which would set him out as being a Communist but PITTARD did advise that he conversed with the subject on numerous occasions and it was from the general conversations of the subject that he was able to tell that the subject was a Communist.

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PITTARD stated that the subject some few years back had endeavored to organize the students at Mount Berry School in Rank, Georgia into a strike because the Berry Schools were supported by money from HENRY FORD.

PITTARD advised that Mrs. J. O. WEST, the mother of the subject had been residing on the subject's farm for the past three or four years. He stated that on numerous occasions automobiles from out of the State of Georgia were seen to stop at the WEST farm. He advised that in the future he would endeavor to obtain the license tag numbers of any cars that stopped at the WEST farm and would forward them to the Atlanta Office.

PITTARD also advised that when WEST recently moved to his farm he brought along with him a printing press. He did not know whether the subject is at the present time using the printing press.

PITTARD referred the writer to A. J. MATTHEWS, farmer and school bus driver for the Cass Schools.

A. J. MATTHEWS advised that when WEST was a boy he used to visit an uncle near Cassville who is presently deceased. MATTHEWS stated that as a boy WEST used to ride his bicycle all over the surrounding community and distribute radical literature. He stated that it is well known that WEST is a radical and a Communist and that he would so testify that WEST is a Communist. MATTHEWS advised that he had seen some of the literature WEST distributed several years ago and would testify that it was Communist literature. He advised that subject had gone to college and also was reported to have traveled in Europe.

MATTHEWS stated that WEST came from a poor family and in order to obtain his education some organization must have helped pay his expenses.

MATTHEWS advised that his brother had married the subject's aunt and that he would endeavor to obtain through this source information concerning subject's activities and if he was able to obtain any information he would notify PITTARD so that PITTARD could contact the Atlanta Office.

Mrs. PINK M. MATTHEWS, who operates a grocery store in Cassville, Georgia, advised that she had never conversed with the subject but stated that it was generally known throughout the community that the

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subject is a Communist. She was unable to furnish any further information concerning the subject or his activities.

EDWARD HASTON, Superintendent, Cass Schools, Cassville, Georgia, advised that the subject's younger brother, [redacted] is presently [redacted] in the schools. HASTON stated that [redacted] is a splendid student and a very good boy. He stated that [redacted] had never showed any tendencies that are un-American in school, however, HASTON advised that he and two of his fellow teachers received a pamphlet at Christmas called "Constitution of Soviet Russia". These pamphlets were signed by [redacted] HASTON was of the opinion that although [redacted] signature was on the fly leaf of these pamphlets he was not responsible for the sending of them. Mr. HASTON believed that possibly [redacted] brother DON WEST had sent them.

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HASTON advised that he did not know the subject of the instant case and therefore was unable to furnish any information concerning the subject.

Rev. R. C. KIMSEY, pastor, Baptist Church, Cassville, Georgia, advised that he first knew of DONALD WEST several years ago. Rev. KIMSEY was a pastor in the community known as Snow Springs, which is located six miles west of Adairsville, several years ago. He was unable to recall the exact dates. He advised that at this time WEST came into this community and endeavored to organize the farmers around there into a union. He stated that WEST distributed Communist literature and the Daily Worker to farmers in that community and that he had seen such literature. KIMSEY advised that WEST created a great deal of unrest in that community. He stated that at the same time WEST was endeavoring to create a strike at the Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia, and it was KIMSEY'S opinion that there was some correlation between WEST'S activities in the Snow Springs community and the strike at Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia.

KIMSEY also advised that at this same time he had read an article in the Daily Worker which was written by WEST.

KIMSEY advised that a Mr. CULBERTSON, who lives in that community would be able to furnish information concerning the subject's activities in that community at that time.

KIMSEY advised that MANUEL SUTTON, who professed to be a Jehovah's Witness appeared to be one of DON WEST'S cohorts during that particular period. He advised that WEST had his headquarters at SUTTON'S home.

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KIMSEY stated that before the United States became involved in war with Japan, MANUEL SUTTON was circulating petitions against United States going to war. He stated that from what he knows of the subject it is his firm conviction that the subject is a Communist.

On December 31, 1941 Trooper WEAVER of the Georgia State Police furnished the Atlanta Office with copies of "The Country Parson", which he obtained from A. J. McCORD of Meansville, Georgia. These copies are being retained in the Atlanta files.

In an Atlanta file entitled "NATIONAL STUDENTS LEAGUE, INTERNAL SECURITY - C" in the report of Special Agent L. O. PRIOR dated February 11, 1941; there is set forth information concerning the activities of the National Students League in Georgia from 1933 to 1936. In connection with the investigation, February and April issues of Student Review were found in the files of the Fulton County Solicitor's Office. These Student Reviews listed ADAM LAPIN as editor, THEO DRUM as managing editor, JOSEPH STAROBIN, associate editor, DENA GLANS, literary editor, MORRIS LEVINE, business manager and ALEX SHINASI, circulation manager.

The February 1934 issue of the Student Review, on page 8, carried an article concerning the Southern Folk School library operated by DON WEST, CLYDE JOHNSON and WILLIS SUTTON at Kennesaw, Georgia. In connection with this organization a pamphlet was found published the stationery of this group and indicating that its purpose was to arouse and educate the Southern farmers and workers for a society of justice, freedom and plenty; that this organization maintains a chain of circulating libraries and a folk school reaching out to remote farm communities, mountain neighborhoods and industrial villages.

It is to be noted that at this same time correspondence was found indicating that CLYDE JOHNSON was very active in organizing the National Students Union in and around Atlanta. Further it is to be noted that CLYDE JOHNSON and DONALD WEST were very active at this time in the Communist Party in Atlanta.

Concerning DON WEST, who was listed as director of the Southern Folk School and libraries, the following information was secured from the Daily Worker of the column written by MICHAEL GOLD, entitled "Out of the World". In this article GOLD states that WEST is a young southern mountaineer boy who became revolutionary and studied Marx and Lenin for the purpose of organizing the negro and white farmers in Georgia. The column further states that WEST was born in Gilmer County, Georgia;

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he was educated at the Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia; at the Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee; Vanderbilt University and that he won a scholarship to study in Denmark and Europe.

In Atlanta file entitled "HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL - INTERNAL SECURITY - C" in the report of Special Agent J. J. LYNCH, Knoxville, Tennessee dated December 30, 1941, there is set forth information concerning the subject of instant case. In an interview with a Mrs. WINNIE MEEKS, Monteagle, Tennessee, she advised that she has heard DON WEST'S parody sung at the Highlander Folk School. This parody of DON WEST'S is entitled "My Country 'Tis of Thee", the first line of which begins: "My Country 'Tis of Thee, Land of Mass Misery....." This poem has been set out previously in this report.

In the same report of Special Agent J. J. LYNCH, Knoxville, Tennessee, there is set forth the results of an interview with Dr. UPTON BEALL BOWDEN, County Health Officer, Pelham, Tennessee, BOWDEN furnished the Knoxville Office a part of a copy of a letter that he had written to the Methodist Bishop concerning Dr. LILLIAN JOHNSON, the individual who gave land upon which the Highlander Folk School is founded. This letter is maintained in the Knoxville files and reads as follows:

"In the early twenties, a Miss Lillian Johnson took up residence at Monteagle, the report has it that because of another Lillian Johnson living at Monteagle and because of a Ph. D. from a University in Leipzig, Germany, this Miss Johnson began using the title of Doctor.

"At the time she came to Monteagle she was a great W. C. T. U. worker, or appeared to be. She had a lot of energy for a woman of her age and soon made herself known in her community of Summerfield just above Monteagle. She took a very active interest in the Summerfield School and being a tireless worker, through contributions from without as well as within the county she was instrumental in getting a fairly respectable school building erected in that community and some very able teachers brought in. It took two or three years to do this.

"After she had taken such an interest in the schools she was elected by the County Court to the County Board of Education somewhere about the year of nineteen hundred and twenty-seven. She was soon elected chairman of the County Board of Education by the members of that board. It was then that I became very well acquainted with the lady, as I was beginning to visit the schools in a Public Health capacity. She asked me if I would mind taking her from school to school that she might become"

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"Better acquainted with the lay of the county, the school buildings and the people in each community. She visited all of the schools with me from time to time and attended the county court with me from time to time. She is one of the few people that I have been thrown with and have tried to understand but never could make any headway. Looking back over some of these trips, she made some remarks that I now think were unguarded at the time.

"At that time we had in Grundy County a very strong Communist Red settlement in the far east end of the county from Summerfield and Monteagle. In our rounds we visited schools in those neighborhoods and some of that element occasionally would get out hand bills, she was eager or seemed to be eager to get her hands on these documents. She was acceptable and visited in the best homes in Grundy County from the time she first arrived in the county. She was well thought of although her views did not coincide with the local citizen's.

"Along about the early or middle thirties, she decided to give up her residence in Grundy County and the ladies in Grundy County more especially those at Tracy City honored her by giving her a going away reception or party. At this reception there were men and ladies, a cross section of the best people, capital and labor and all denominations. At this reception she personally introduced two young men to everybody including me. She asked me to assist them in their work stating that they were taking over her home and was going to have and teach a cooperative Folk School. These young men, Miles Horton and Don West, have never darkened the door of one of these homes that she was acceptable in except perhaps on business. Not less than two weeks after they were in the county I personally found them visiting in the neighborhood where this red element lived. She did not introduce these two young men to this element but they knew right where to go. She knew where they lived.

"The school has never been a Folk School according to the definition of a Folk School, neither does their charter read as such. The number of acts of charity they have done could just about be put in a thimble. They have done no more in their immediate neighborhood than any neighbor would do in his community. This past summer they had a pretense of a Folk School. They were instrumental in organizing the common labor on WPA as a union. They did not get one dollar more in wages for these poor suckers than the WPA was paying that class of labor any where else, but they did charge the poor sucker one dollar out of each pay check. They were the cause of the WPA strike which as far as I have"

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"been able to check they did not contribute ten dollars for the cause of the strike but did send out fifteen hundred appeals and received a few hundred dollars.

"Miss or Dr. Lillian Johnson was acceptable in all of the best homes and all of the churches in Grundy County but she is not acceptable in any of them today, nor does she visit any of them. She comes up in the summer but, stays back off of the main highway and does not come to Monteagle and visit around as she once did."

The report of Special Agent J. J. LYNCH, Knoxville, Tennessee, discloses also that Confidential Informant [redacted] of the Knoxville Office, advised that DON WEST was next after MYLES HORTON to come as a member of the Highlander Folk School staff. DON WEST came from Kennesaw, Georgia; he was educated at the Berry School in Georgia, according to [redacted] which was founded by MARGARET BERRY. According to [redacted], it was generally known that DON WEST was a Communist and DON WEST did not deny it. DON WEST told [redacted] he was a Communist. [redacted] states that after DON WEST left the Highlander Folk School he heard that WEST was in jail and for all [redacted] knows WEST might still be in jail. b2 b7D

According to [redacted] MYLES HORTON knew DON WEST before he came to Summerfield for MYLES HORTON would introduce WEST around the community and stated that he thought DON WEST would make a good partner. b2 b7D

In this same report by Special Agent J. J. LYNCH, Knoxville, Tennessee, Confidential Informant [redacted] of the Knoxville Office, on interview advised that he first heard of Communism back in 1930 when he was working for the Atlantic Coastline Railroad at Tampa, Florida. He was in Tampa for about two years and during this time he read in a Tampa daily paper that about fifteen or sixteen Communists had been rounded up in Tampa because of agitation and had been shipped back to their former countries. About 1931 or 1932 [redacted] came back to Monteagle, Tennessee. [redacted] stated that at about this time the Highlander Folk School was established. MYLES HORTON and DON WEST were there at this time and the Highlander Folk School was a sort of play center for the community. [redacted] stated that [redacted] Highlander Folk School but never attended any of the regular classes. About seven or eight years ago there was a meeting at the Highlander Folk School attended by ten or twelve people. [redacted] Dr. TAYLOR'S wife, who is presently at Camp Unitika, Monteagle, Tennessee, was present, as was also MYLES HORTON and DON WEST. b2 b7D

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DON WEST was giving a lecture concerning economical practices between different countries and was illustrating his point on a blackboard. In some way the discussion got around to Communism and [redacted] what he had heard at Tampa, Florida, saying that these Communists must be bad people. MYLES HORTON laughed at this and DON WEST looked hard at [redacted] and someone else told him that he had spoken too fast. It was then that [redacted] learned that DON WEST was a Communist.

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[redacted] FRANZ DANIELS and DON WEST had a fight one night at the Highlander Folk School over a discussion on Communism and that apparently FRANZ DANIELS was against Communism. DON WEST left the school about a year after it was started because at this time the school was socialistic and DON WEST was a Communist and he could not agree to the socialism of the school.

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[redacted] DON WEST was raised in Georgia and came to the Highlander Folk School from Kennesaw, Georgia.

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As a result of a mail cover placed on all mail to subject at Meansville, Georgia, the following mail tracings have been received:

Letter to Rev. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Birmingham, Ala. 8-6-41 bearing return address "Buddie West, Gen. Del., Birmingham, Ala.

Letter to League for Mutual Aid, Room 2002-104 5th Ave., New York, N.Y. postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-7-41, bearing return address "D. L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mr. Pink Matthews, Cassville, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga. 8-7-41, bearing return address "The Meansville Parish, Donald L. West Pastor, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Miss Chrysteen Smith, 503 Lee Ave., Waycross, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-7-42 bearing return address "The Country Parson", D. L. West, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mrs. Homer L. Pike, 182 Merritts Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga. 8-7-41 with return address "The County Parson, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Don West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Atlanta, Ga. 8-7-41, bearing no return address.

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Letter to Mr. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Columbia, S. C., 8-7-41 bearing return address: "Offices 13-16 Sou. Carolina Nat'l Bank Bldg., Columbia, S. C."

Letter to Mr. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked 8-9-41 at Thomasville, Ga., bearing return address "E. C. Bishop, Route #3, Thomasville, Ga."

Letter to Donald L. West, P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Las Animas, Colorado, 8-9-41, with return address "Ben & Isabel Hoagland, 332 Locust Ave., Las Animas, Colo."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill., 8-9-41, bearing return address. "Col. William Henry Huff, 533 East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill."

Letter to The Abolish Peonage Committee, Room 305, 231 South Mills St., Chicago, Ill., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-12-41 with return address "The Country Parson, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mr. Ben Davis, 35 East 12 St, New York City, postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-12-41 with return address "Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mr. Sam Hall, Box 2032, Birmingham, Ala., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-12-41 with return address "Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mr. William Henry Huff, 533 East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-12-41 with return address "The Country Parson, Box 27, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Atlanta, Ga., 8-13-41 with return address "182 Merritts Ave., N. E., Atlanta, Ga."

Letter to Mr. G. G. Ward, 642 Central Ave, S. W., Atlanta, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-14-41 with return address "Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Mrs. Honor L. Pike, 182 Merritts Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-14-41 with return address "Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill., 8-10-41 with return address "Col. William Henry Huff, 533 East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill."

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Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Saint Louis, Mo. 8-14-41 with return address "The Span, Rt. 13, Box 663, Kirkwood, Mo."

Letter to Mr. Don West, Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Tionesta, Pa. August 11, 1941, bearing return address "E. G. Murray, Tionesta, Pa."

Letter to Mr. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Hammond, Ind., 8-14-41 with return address H.S.K., 60 Glendale Park, Hammond, Ind."

Letter to The Rev. Donald L. West, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Brooklyn, N.Y., 8-14-41 with return address 4907 - 17th Ave., Brooklyn, New York".

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Burlington, N. C. 8-15-41 with return address "Sam G. Johnson, P.O. Box 71, Graham, N.C."

Letter to Mr. & Mrs. Mike Ross, Sou-Conference for Human Welfare, 414 Exchange Bldg., Birmingham, Ala., postmarked Meansville, Ga., 8-16-41, with return address "D. L. West, Meansville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Don West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Atlanta, Ga., 8-18-41 with return address "N. Katz, 486 Boulevard, N. E., Atlanta, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Donald West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Nashville, Tenn., 8-20-41 bearing return address "Alva W. Taylor, 101 Bowling Ave., Nashville, Tenn."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Editor of The Country Parson Magazine, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Georgia, postmarked New York, N.Y., 8-20-41, with return address "George C. Frend, 229 W, 27th St., New York, N.Y."

Letter to Rev. D. L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked High Point, N. C. 8-21-41 with return address "Ross, Box 543, High Point, N. C."

Letter to Dr. Donald L. West, Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked 8-21-41 at Atlanta, Ga., with return address "P.O. Box 1535, Atlanta, Ga. U.S.A."

Letter to Rev. Donald West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Brunswick, Ga., 8-22-41 with return address "Mrs. J. L. Jones, 1901 Gloucester St., Brunswick, Ga."

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Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill, 8-24-41 bearing return address "Ira Benson, 826 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill."

Letter to Rev. D. L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked High Point, N. C. 8-24-41, bearing return address "P.O.Box 543, High Point, N. C."

Letter to Mr. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Sarasota, Fla., 8-25-41 with return address "P.O.Box 644, Sarasota, Fla."

Air mail letter to The Rev. Donald L. West, P. O. Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Brooklyn, N.Y. 8-28-41 with return address "4907 17th Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O.Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill, 8-?-41, with return address: "Col. William Henry Huff, 533 - East 34th Place, Chicago, Ill."

Letter to Rev. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., Box 27, postmarked Ellijay, Ga., 9-2-41 with return address "Lee Recco, Ellijay, Ga."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., with postmark of Blairsville, Ga., 9-2-41 bearing return address "Byron Herbert Reece, Blairsville, Ga."

Letter to Rev. D. L. West, Meansville, Ga., with return address "Box, 543 High Point, N. C.", postmarked High Point, N. C. 9-3-41.

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Thomaston, Ga., 9-3-41 with return address "G. L. Thurmond, Thomaston, Ga., Rt.3"

Letter to Rev. Don L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Waycross, Ga., 9-4-41 with return address "503 Lee Ave., Waycross, Ga."

Letter to Don West, Rt.#2, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Monteagle, Tenn. 9-5-41 with return address "Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, P.O.Box 27, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Huntington, W. Va., 9-6-41, with return address 530 W. 11th Ave., Huntington, W. Va.

Letter to Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Atlanta, Ga. 9-8-41 with return address "H.L.P. 182 Merritts Ave., N.E., Atlanta, Ga."

Atlanta, 100-559

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Burlington, N. C. 9-?-41 with return address "P.O. Box 710, Graham, N. C."

Letter to Rev. Donald West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked Chicago, Ill., 9-?-41, with return address "231 Wells St., Room 305, Chicago, Ill."

Letter to Rev. Donald L. West, Meansville, Ga., postmarked New York 9-?-41, with return address "H.P. Room 704, 30 Irving Place, New York City."

From the above set forth mail covers it will be noted that the subject has had correspondence with the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, which is presently being investigated by the Knoxville Field Division for Communist activities. It is also noted that the subject has had correspondence with HOMER L. PIKE, 182 Merritts Ave., Atlanta, Georgia, who has previously been referred to in this report. Likewise, it is noted that the subject has had correspondence with N. KATZ, 486 Boulevard, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, who is the subject of an Atlanta file entitled "NATHAN KATZ - INTERNAL SECURITY - C", a known communist. Also, it is noted that the subject has had correspondence with BUDDIE WEST, who is the wife of MIKE ROSS, a known Communist in North Carolina. Also it is noted that subject has corresponded with MIKE ROSS at High Point, North Carolina.

PENDING

Atlanta, 100-557

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE KNOXVILLE, NEW YORK CITY, SAVANNAH, CHICAGO, HUNTINGTON, CHARLOTTE, MEMPHIS, INDIANAPOLIS, PITTSBURGH, LITTLE ROCK, BIRMINGHAM and DENVER FIELD DIVISIONS, will note the results of the mail cover and will furnish to the Atlanta Office any information contained in their files pertaining to the individuals who reside in their field divisions and who are corresponding with the subject, and will conduct any further investigation deemed appropriate.

✓ THE CINCINNATI FIELD DIVISION, at Bethel, Ohio, will conduct appropriate investigation to determine the subject's activities in Bethel during the summer of 1940 as set forth in Bureau letter, as noted in instant report.

THE LOUISVILLE FIELD DIVISION, at Lexington, Kentucky, will conduct investigation to determine the extent of the subject's activities from 1936 to 1938.

It is to be noted that the subject was state organizer of the Workers Alliance at Lexington, Kentucky in 1937 and that Bureau letter set forth in instant report indicated that the subject was a Communist Party organizer in Kentucky from 1936 to 1938.

Will also endeavor to obtain information as to whether or not the subject organized an Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Kentucky during this period of time.

At Berea, Kentucky, will ascertain whether the subject attended school at Berea College, and if he was involved in any subversive activities at that time.

Also will search their indices to ascertain whether or not the subject was active in the Harlan County coal strike several years ago.

✓ THE NEW HAVEN FIELD DIVISION, at Yale University, will interview GEORGE GREEN, Divinity Student, if deemed advisable, for any information he may have concerning the subject in instant case.

THE SAINT PAUL FIELD DIVISION, will search their indices and furnish any information contained therein pertaining to the subject regarding his activities in Minneapolis, Minnesota in the Spring of 1940.

Atlanta, 100-559

It is to be noted that Bureau letter set forth in instant file reported the subject as having been located in Minneapolis, Minn. in April of 1940.

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION, at Acersville, Georgia, will in the Snow Spring community contact Mr. CULBERTSON for any information he may have concerning the subject's activities several years ago in that community.

At Cassville, Georgia, will recontact S. A. PITTARD and A. J. MATTHEWS for any information they may have developed concerning the subject's present activities.

At Ellijay, Georgia, will contact LEE REECE for any information he may have concerning the subject's activities.

At Atlanta, Georgia, will ascertain the holder of P. O. Box 1535 and if deemed advisable contact this individual for any information he may have concerning the subject and his activities.

PENDING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-645 JA**

REPORT MADE AT BIRMINGHAM	DATE WHEN MADE 6-19-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-12-42	REPORT MADE BY HARVEY D. WALKER
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases; Rev. Donald L. West, Don West		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: **SAM HALL**, former publisher and editor of the **SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC** at Birmingham, Alabama, defunct Communist mouthpiece in the Birmingham area, which ceased publication in September, 1941, left Birmingham, Alabama, shortly thereafter and is reportedly in the United States Navy at the present time. **MIRE ROSS** associated with various Communist Front organizations in Birmingham, Ala. now the international representative of the Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Union, residing at Bessemer, Alabama.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. D. **DURFEE**, dated March 16, 1942 at Atlanta.

DETAILS: A review of reference report reveals that subject forwarded mail to Mr. **SAM HALL**, Box 2032, Birmingham, Alabama.

A review of Birmingham file, entitled **SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC** reveals that **SAM HALL** was employed as Editor and Publisher of that paper until its collapse in September, 1941. **SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC**, during its period of publication in the Birmingham area was known to be the mouthpiece for radical organizations and the Communist Party Workers in the Birmingham vicinity. **HALL**, as Editor, wrote a column in this paper indicating his leftist views. There is no indication in the file, however, that **HALL** was actually a member of the Communist Party.

100-10401-7

It is reported that shortly after the **SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC** ceased publication in 1941 **HALL** left the Birmingham area.

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		SEARCHED	INDEXED
		SERIALIZED	FILED
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100-15680-107

Mr. GEORGE D. FLETCHER, Attorney, Center Building, Birmingham, Alabama, who handled some of the legal problems involved with the operation of the Southern News at Bessemer, Alabama, received a letter from HALL from Norfolk, Virginia indicating that HALL was either about to join the Navy or was already in the United States Navy.

The referenced report further indicates that the subject in this matter wrote to Mr. and Mrs. MIKE ROSS at the SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE in Birmingham, Alabama.

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent J. CULLEN KENNEDY, dated May 15, 1942 entitled MIKE ROSS, WITH ALIENES, ET AL; INTERNAL SECURITY - C. It is indicated therein that MIKE ROSS came to this area and worked for a short time for the SOUTHERN NEWS ALMANAC prior to its collapse. During that time he was known to have been active in the SOUTHERN CONFERENCE OF HUMAN WELFARE, THE LEAGUE OF YOUNG SOUTHERNERS and with LABORS NON PARTISAN LEAGUE, all Communist Front organizations in this area. ROSS is now known to be the International Representative of the International Mine, Mill and Smelters Workers Union and was recently at 1825 1/2 Carolina Avenue, Bessemer, Alabama. It is known that he is presently publishing a form of journal for that organization as part of his duties in this capacity.

In connection with the letter received by the subject from "BUDD Y. WEST, General Delivery, Birmingham, the Birmingham Field Division contains no information with regard to an individual by that name, although it is believed possible that this person may be DELLA WEST, wife of MIKE ROSS.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-769**

REPORT MADE AT LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY	DATE WHEN MADE 6/30/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/19, 20, 19, 21, 22/42	REPORT MADE BY H. B. BRIDGEMAN	HEP:IBU
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation and examination of Lexington City Directory 1937 edition, reflects that subject resided at 617 Cedar Street during the latter part of 1933 and early part of 1937 and had his business office at 103 South Broadway, Lexington, Kentucky, where he acted as Secretary for the Kentucky Workers Alliance. Further investigation failed to reflect any information of subject or any activity of subject in organization of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Kentucky. Subject never in attendance at Berea College therefore no information was available as to the subject's activity in their indices during the Harlan County coal strike.

- RUC -

Reference: Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated 3/16/42 at Atlanta.

Details: AT LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

The writer conducted the following investigation at the Lexington City library and examined City Directory from 1935 to 1938 and the only available information which could be ascertained was that subject was listed in the 1937 edition as residing at 617 Cedar Street and having offices at 103 South Broadway where he was acting in the capacity of Secretary for the Kentucky Workers Alliance. Examinations of all other editions from 1935 to 1938 met with negative results.

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100-15680-108

The writer attempted to obtain information relative to the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Kentucky at the Lexington City Library which met with negative results as this library has no information which deals with formation of any parties which does not approve of the Form of Government which is now existing.

The following information was received from MR. VERNON GILES COOPER who is subject in file # 100-44 in the Louisville Field Division. MR. COOPER was interviewed by the reporting Agent at which time he advised that at the time of the organization of the Kentucky Workers Alliance he was President of this organization and that he recalls subject in this case as Secretary with business offices at 103 South Broadway in Lexington.

MR. COOPER was questioned relative to the existence of this organization at the present time at which time he advised that the Kentucky Workers Alliance had been incorporated into a national organization. When MR. COOPER was questioned as to with what national organization the Kentucky Workers Alliance had been incorporated he refused to give any further information.

It was further stated by MR. COOPER that subject remained in Lexington to the best of his knowledge only a very short period of time, during the organization of the Kentucky Workers Alliance, and at the present time he stated he did not know where subject was located.

At this time MR. COOPER failed to give any further information or to elaborate on the activity of the Kentucky Workers Alliance or to give any further information regarding subject in this case.

AT BEREA, KENTUCKY

MISS JEAN ROBERT, assistant to the Registrar at Berea College, was interviewed relative to subject's activities at Berea College. After a search of her attendance records she advised the Agent that subject was never in attendance at Berea therefore the writer was unable to obtain any information relative to subject's activities while supposedly in attendance at this college.

Inasmuch as the subject in this case did not attend Berea college, their indices would not reflect the subject's activity, if any, during the Harlan County coal strike.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION

BY _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-559 1**

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 7-21-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-30-42	REPORT MADE BY JOHN H. KEEFE
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases: Rev. Donald L. West, Don West			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: JAMES N. CULBERTSON, Snow Spring Community, Adairsville, Ga., advises subject introduced Socialistic and Jehovah's Witness ideas in Snow Spring community near Adairsville, Ga., about 12 years ago. Subject reported to have had a following in the Snow Spring community from 1930 until about 1934, and has since that time lost most of this following. Subject said to visit MANUEL SUTTON who is described as active Jehovah Witness leader, and is said to have sectional meetings of Jehovah's Witnesses at his home at Snow Spring community. No evidence that MANUEL SUTTON or his family have Communistic tendencies. A. J. MATHEWS and S. M. PITTARD, both of Cassville, Ga., have no additional information on the activities of subject.

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE, dated 3-16-42, at Atlanta, Ga.

DETAILS: AT ADAIRSVILLE, GEORGIA:

JAMES M. CULBERTSON, RFD #3, Snow Spring Community, advised that he has known subject for the past fifteen years. He stated that subject always had Socialistic ideas and that subject was expelled from Berry School, Rome, Georgia, because of his ideas. CULBERTSON stated that after subject was expelled from school, he came to the Snow Spring community and by canvassing the surrounding territory and holding meetings he spread Socialistic ideas in that neighborhood, and for a period from about 1930 to about 1934 he had a considerable following in that locality. CULBERTSON stated that subject also, right from the outset, taught Jehovah's Witness doctrines along with the Socialistic theories

100-10401-10

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Atlanta, 100-559

and that he converted MANUEL SUTTON and his family of Snow Spring community to his ideas. CULBERTSON stated that subject continued to visit the home of MANUEL SUTTON, who is distantly related to him, at Snow Spring community up until about two years ago. He stated that he had not seen subject in that neighborhood since that time.

CULBERTSON stated that MANUEL SUTTON and his two sons, WILLIS and ARNOLD SUTTON, as well as his sons-in-law, JEWEL EVERETT and HENRY COKER, were actively engaged in organizing Jehovah's Witness activities, and that they had meetings on the average of once or twice a week at MANUEL SUTTON's home in the Snow Spring community, and that at these meetings representatives of various Jehovah's Witness groups came from Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, and other neighboring states.

CULBERTSON stated that he had seen WILLIS SUTTON and ARNOLD SUTTON distributing Jehovah's Witness literature in Calhoun and Rome, Georgia, and also that he had seen JEWEL EVERETT distributing this literature in Calhoun, Georgia. CULBERTSON stated that he could not recall just exactly what subject had said during the time that he preached around the Snow Spring community, but said in substance that subject was opposed to the free school system and talked that labor should control all public utilities, and that in general the working people should control things in this country.

REV. R. C. KINSEY, pastor of the Baptist Church, Cassville, Georgia, and former pastor of the church at Snow Spring community, advised that MANUEL SUTTON, his wife and sons were active in Jehovah's Witness work, and that though they had formerly been members of his church, they had left his church about the time that subject first came into the Snow Spring community with his Socialistic ideas.

Mr. KINSEY stated that MANUEL SUTTON and his sons helped subject during the period of 1930 and 1931 when subject was spreading his Socialistic ideas and some of them did distribute copies of the Daily Worker in that locality. Mr. KINSEY said that he had not heard anything unfavorable about subject for several years, and as far as he knew subject was working on a farm near Cassville, Georgia. He stated that he had seen subject about a week previous in Cassville, Georgia.

AT CASSVILLE, GEORGIA:

S. M. PITTARD who operates a general store, advised that subject had kept to himself for the past several months and that he had not heard anything specific about any further unAmerican activity on the part of subject. He stated that it had been rumored that subject had given a sermon at a colored church in Cassville, but he said that he was unable to give any more specific information about this. He said that subject was living with his wife and two

Atlanta, 100-659

children on a farm near near Cassville, and that subject's mother and his brother PAUL were residing in a house near there. He advised that he would report to the Atlanta Field Division any unAmerican activity observed on the part of subject.

A. J. MATHEWS stated that he had not seen very much of subject for the past several months, and that he had no information to furnish about any further unAmerican activity on the part of subject. He advised that he would report to the Atlanta Field Division any unAmerican activity observed on the part of subject.

-PENDING-

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

C. J. U.
* THE CINCINNATI FIELD DIVISION, at Bethel, Ohio, will conduct appropriate investigation to determine the subject's activities in Bethel during the summer of 1940 as set forth in Bureau letter as noted in report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated 3-16-42.

* THE NEW HAVEN FIELD DIVISION, at Yale University, will interview GEORGE GREEN, Divinity student, if deemed advisable, for any information he may have concerning the subject in instant case.

C. J. U.
* THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION, at Ellijay, Georgia, will contact LEE REECE for any information he may have concerning subject's activities.

* At Atlanta, Georgia, will ascertain the holder of P. O. Box 1535, and if deemed advisable will contact this individual for any information he may have concerning the subject and his activities.

* At Cassville, Georgia, will continue to recontact S. M. PITTARD and A. J. MATHEWS for any information they may develop concerning the subject's present activities.

-PENDING-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-1040-11

REPORT MADE AT <u>ATLANTA, GA</u>	DATE WHEN MADE <u>8-1-56</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <u>7-1-56</u>	REPORT MADE BY <u>SA [Name]</u>
TITLE <u>Subject [Name], with aliases; For. Reginald L. [Name], [Address]</u>			CHARACTER OF CASE <u>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</u>

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject resided near Bethel, Ohio in 1940 and reported to have left this vicinity 11-12-40 for U.S. Route No. 2, Maysville, Georgia. Was active in Communist circles in the Cincinnati section of the Party and in the Peace Movement. He attended the Emergency Peace Mobilization held in Chicago on Aug. 11-12-41, and 1, 2, 3, 4 and addressed a rally sponsored by the Cincinnati Youth Committee against war on 11-11-40 in Cincinnati.

-110-

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent S. D. Purfee dated 3-16-42 at Atlanta, Ga.

DETAILS:

Reference report requests an investigation of subject's activities in Bethel, Ohio during the summer of 1940.

A review of the Cincinnati files reflects that such investigation was conducted and reported in Cincinnati file 91-77, entitled "JACK MURPHY, was; ALIEN", in which case New York City is the office of origin. A review of that file reflects that the Atlanta Field Division has been furnished copies of each report.

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent Edward H. Owen, dated 4-11-41 at Cincinnati in that case, in which it is set forth that investigation by the Bethel, Ohio Police Department revealed that subject did reside near Bethel, but had moved to U.S. Route No. 2, Maysville, or Maysville, Georgia.

100-1040-11

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SERIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
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3-Cincinnati	SEARCHED INDEXED	ATLANTA
	SERIALIZED FILED	SEP 30 1956
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Handwritten signatures and stamps, including a large stamp with the number 100-1040-11 and the date SEP 30 1956.

RONALD LEE HART, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

The following is a summary of further information re-
garding subject obtained in the office of the Cincinnati Field Division.

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In file 100-15, entitled "COMMUNIST PARTY, COLUMBUS, OHIO;
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)", report of Special Agent S. H. Norton dated
October 2, 1940, Cincinnati, Ohio, in information supplied by
confidential informant [redacted] and [redacted] who attended the Emergency Peace
Mobilization held at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, September 1 and 2,
1940. On page 18 of that report subject is listed as a Communist Party
member with whom informants came in contact in Chicago, and of subject
it is said, "Bethel, Ohio - Minister; writer for Daily Worker."

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In Cincinnati file 100-2-26 entitled "INTERNAL SECURITY (C);
COMMUNIST PARTY, CINCINNATI, OHIO", report of Special Agent S. H. Norton dated
January 19, 1941, reflects that on December 9, 1940 Confidential Informant
[redacted] turned over a leaflet issued by the Cincinnati Youth Committee Against
War, advertising speeches by REV. DONALD HART and JOHN SMITH. This leaf-
let was given to Informant [redacted] by [redacted] 2022 Western Avenue,
Cincinnati, Ohio in November of 1940. [redacted] is a prominent member
of the Communist Party at Cincinnati. The leaflet is entitled "How the
job of peace" and gives notice of a rally for peace and an artistic
observance to be scheduled for Monday evening, November 11, 1940 at
8:15 o'clock at the Ninth Street Baptist Church, 21 W. Ninth Street,
Cincinnati, the speakers to be Rev. DONALD HART, on the subject, "We
Must Keep Out", and JOHN SMITH, on the subject "I saw China fight for
Peace". This leaflet is being retained in the Cincinnati file but
will be furnished to the Atlanta Field office upon request.

b2
b7D

In Cincinnati file No. 65-216 entitled "COMMUNIST PARTY
ACTIVITIES IN CINCINNATI, OHIO; INTERNAL SECURITY - C", serial 37
thereof, which is a report of Special Agent S. H. Norton dated January 21,
1941, contains a report of Confidential Informant [redacted] under date of
November 7, 1940 at Cincinnati, which is as follows:

b2
b7D

"After meeting with our contact man, called on TOM and
MARGARET BOWERS. MARGARET and L. S. THOMAS and TED BRON were present.
We prattled about elections, the SIO, and the A.M. MARGARET and Mrs.
THOMAS told Confidential Informant [redacted] that CARL LEVY is the local
head man of the A.M., and that the organization is doing quite well.
There will be a meeting of the group at the Ninth Street Baptist Church
Monday night, November 11; speakers, our old friend DONALD HART, who we
met through [redacted] in Chicago, and JOHN SMITH, whom we haven't
met and haven't heard of. HART, who knows HART quite well it seems,
said HART is an active organizer in Kentucky, or had been, and now was
doing a good job from his Local Chapter."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Origin: ATLANTA, GEORGIA

NH File No. 100-3009 k

Made at: NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT	Date: 9/22/42	Period: 8/31/42	Made by: E. CHARLTON GRAVES, II
Title: DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases, Rev. Donald L. West, Don West			Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Synopsis: REV. GEORGE GREEN, Saybrook, Conn., stated that he believes subject follows Communist Party lines. GREEN attended Communist meeting in Cincinnati with subject. GREEN doesn't believe subject is dangerous as long as Russia is on the side of the Allies. Subject connected with the Highlander Folk School, a Communist school in Summerfield, Community of Monteagle, Tennessee.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent S. D. DURFEE dated March 16, 1942 at Atlanta, Georgia; and report of Special Agent A. M. GARBER dated August 7, 1942, at Atlanta, Georgia.

DETAILS: The REVEREND GEORGE L. GREEN, Pastor of the First Congregational Church, Saybrook, Connecticut, advised that he had worked with the subject for the last two summers in Ohio and Georgia. REVEREND GREEN stated that he had no definite proof that the subject was a Communist; in fact, the subject had said that he was not a Communist. However, the REVEREND GREEN said that it was his belief that the subject is a Communist and follows the party line. He stated that the subject had always been mixed up with the labor situation, and was involved in the labor difficulties at Harlan, Kentucky. He stated that to the best of his knowledge the subject had been connected in some way with the CIO. REVEREND GREEN stated that in his opinion the subject has a martyr complex and is very patriotic toward the laboring man. He stated that the subject believes that the laborers are the very backbone of the United States.

100-10481-72

pp. & Fwd. SEARCHED..... SAC INDEXED.....

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100-10481-111

REVEREND GREEN stated that during the last Presidential election he had attended a Communist meeting in Cincinnati in the company of the subject. While at this meeting he had been introduced to a man by the name of BOB GUNKEL who was secretary of the Communist Party. The REVEREND GREEN stated that the meeting seemed innocent enough to him.

The REVEREND GREEN described the subject as a man who had worked himself up, who had studied hard, and who had traveled in Russia. He was the type that was always writing to Congressmen and the type who preaches very radical sermons. He stated that the subject knew about, or was connected with, the Communist magazine, "Friday."

The REVEREND GREEN stated that he was with the subject in Georgia when Germany marched on Russia. He stated that the subject did not know what to make of this situation. When the REVEREND GREEN got to Georgia the subject was printing pro-peace papers. However, the subject's attitude changed gradually and he stopped printing the pro-peace papers and had buried his printing press on his farm in northern Georgia. The REVEREND GREEN stated that in his belief the subject is very harmless as long as Russia is on the side of the Allies. If Russia were not on the side of the Allies he would consider the subject dangerous. The REVEREND GREEN stated that he was not in Georgia at the time of the peonage trials, but that he understood that the subject had tried to organize a movement to get CUNNINGHAM, the subject in the peonage case, put in jail. The REVEREND GREEN gave the reporting Agent a copy of the "Southern News Almanac" in which there appears an article written by the REVEREND DONALD L. WEST.

The REVEREND GREEN stated that MISS PATTY LEE COGHILL, 287 Fourth Avenue New York City, knows the subject very well, and was his secretary while he was in Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-1 advised that the subject had been connected with the Highlander Folk School, a school that was associated with and sponsored by Communists. Communism appeared early among the supporters of the Highlander Folk School. MYLES HORTON was the first member of the staff, and was, on December 30, 1941, the head of that school. DONALD WEST was next after MYLES HORTON to come as a member of the Highlander Folk School staff. DON WEST came from Kenesaw, Georgia. He was educated at the Berry School in Georgia, according to [redacted] which was founded by MARGARET BERRY.

According to [redacted] it was generally known that DON WEST was a Communist and DON WEST did not deny it. DON WEST told him that he was a Communist. [redacted] said that after DON WEST left the Highlander Folk School he heard that he was put in jail, and for all [redacted] knows he might still be in jail. Apparently MYLES HORTON knew DON WEST before he came to Summerfield, for MYLES HORTON would introduce him around the community and said that he thought DON WEST would make a good partner.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

100-3009

ENCLOSURES

TO THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION

One copy of "The Southern News Almanac" for Thursday,
July 17, 1941.

100-2009

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City

Will interview MISS PATTY LEE COGHILL, 287 Fourth Avenue,
New York City, if deemed advisable, for any information
she may have concerning the subject in instant case.

100-3699

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informant mentioned in the report of E. CHARLTON GRAVES, II, dated September 22, 1942, at New Haven, Connecticut, is:

T-1 New Haven File No. 100-2498;
A report by Special Agent J. J. LYNCH
dated December 30, 1941 at Nashville,
Tennessee, and entitled HIGHLANDER FOLK
SCHOOL.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-559.**

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.	DATE WHEN MADE 11/13/42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/10/42	REPORT MADE BY MARCUS B. GALTHOUN : JLK
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C CUSTODIAL DETENTION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject presently residing Lula, Georgia and reportedly teaching school there.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent A. M. GARBER dated 8/7/42 at Atlanta, Georgia.

DETAILS:

AT CARTERSVILLE, GEORGIA:

Mr. JACK MCGOY, Deputy Sheriff, Bartow County, advised upon interview that to his knowledge the subject was still residing on Route 3, Cartersville, Georgia, near Cassville, Georgia. MCGOY stated he had heard no reports which would indicate that the subject had been active in Communist work during the past six to eight months.

Mr. JOE NELSON, Postmaster, Cartersville, advised upon interview that he had recently received information to the effect that the subject is now residing in Lula, Georgia and teaching school there.

Mr. DEWEY GAULT, Rural Mail Carrier, Cartersville, Georgia, who serves Route 3, advised that the subject had left Route 3, Cartersville, around the first of September and that the subject's mother had subsequently advised him that the subject was teaching school in Lula. Mr. GAULT stated that he frequently picked up letters addressed to the subject at Lula, Georgia by his mother and that on several occasions mail addressed to the subject at Cartersville, Georgia had been forwarded to him at Lula by his mother.

Mr. GAULT stated that the subject was the son of the late J. O. WEST and Mrs. LILLIE E. WEST. He stated that J. O. WEST had been dead for

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		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">100-559-7</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">NOV 16 1942</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">SEARCHED INDEXED</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">SERIALIZED FILED</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">NOV 17 1942</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">FBI - BALTIMORE</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 5px 0;">FBI - PITTSBURGH</div>
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approximately two years and that LILLIE E. WEST had recently married one H.N. AIKEN. Mr. GAULT could furnish no information as to the background or national tendencies of AIKEN.

Mr. GAULT advised that the subject had a sister named ANNE who is married to an individual named MIKE ROSS, whom he believes to be a C.I.O. organizer in Birmingham, Alabama, and another sister named BELLE, who is married to an individual named BART LOGAN, who resides in High Point, North Carolina. Mr. GAULT stated that judging from letters written by Mrs. WEST, BELLE and BART LOGAN have been in High Point since last Spring. Mr. GAULT did not recall the street address of these individuals in High Point.

Mr. GAULT advised that the subject had had another sister, now deceased, who was married to an individual named JOHN DUNN, who now resides in Jacksonville, Florida. He stated that JOHN DUNN had a daughter named [redacted] who is approximately [redacted] and who resides with Mrs. LILLIE E. WEST, the subject's mother, at Route 3, Cartersville, Georgia. b6 b7C

Mr. GAULT stated that the subject to his knowledge had one brother, [redacted] who is approximately [redacted] and who graduated from high school at Cassville, Georgia in June, 1942. Mr. GAULT stated that [redacted] is now residing with BELLE and BART LOGAN in High Point, North Carolina. b6 b7C

For the information of the Charlotte Field Division, this office has been advised by the Birmingham Field Division that information was received through a confidential source to the effect that [redacted] Georgia, had corresponded with the New Age Publishers, Inc., New York City, publishers of the Weekly Review, the official organ of the Young Communist League, requesting that that organization give him information concerning subscriptions to the Weekly Review. Birmingham further advised that pursuant to a request of [redacted] New Age Publishers, Inc. had advised MARY SOUTHARD, Secretary of the Young Communist League for the State of Alabama, of [redacted] inquiry, and suggested that she endeavor to acquaint herself with [redacted] as a possible worker for the Young Communist League. b6 b7C

Mr. GAULT stated that WEST had resided on Route 3, Cartersville, during the Summer of 1942, but that he had not seemed to be particularly active in Communist work. He stated that the rumors had been that WEST was writing a book or some poems during the Summer of 1942.

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AT CASSVILLE, GEORGIA:

Mrs. WELLYE SLOAN, Postmaster, advised upon interview that the subject receives his mail through the Post Office at Cartersville, Georgia, but that sometimes his family mails some letters at Cassville. She stated that the subject had been teaching school at Lula, Georgia since September, 1942. Mrs. SLOAN exhibited to this writer a letter addressed to DONALD L. WEST, Lula, Georgia, which she said had been mailed on November 10, 1942 by the subject's mother.

Mrs. SLOAN stated that the subject's mother had recently married a man named AIKEN, but she was unable to furnish any information concerning AIKEN'S background.

Mrs. SLOAN stated she recalled that WEST formerly corresponded frequently with one GEORGE G. WARD, who resides on Central Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia.

S. M. PITTARD advised upon interview that he had been unable to develop any information concerning activities of WEST since he was last contacted by an Agent of this Office. He advised, however, that he believed WEST had moved from Cassville, Georgia, but was unable to furnish any information as to his present location.

- P E N D I N G -

Atlanta File No. 100-559.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Gainesville, Georgia will check the records of the Hall County Board of Education and verify the subject's employment as a school teacher at Lula, Georgia.

At Lula, Georgia will conduct appropriate investigation concerning the subject's activities at that point.

At Atlanta, Georgia will attempt to identify GEORGE G. WARD, Central Avenue, and conduct appropriate investigation concerning his activities.

- P E N D I N G -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GA.**

FILE NO. **100-559**

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 1/22/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/6, 7/43	REPORT MADE BY JOHN T. MULLIGAN
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, Was;			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY-C CUSTOMER DETENTION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject presently principal of school at Lula, Ga. No evidence of subversive activities revealed. Subject attends Baptist and Methodist churches and is quite prominent in activities of these churches. Subject very friendly toward Postmaster at Lula and is seen frequently with him. Subject states he has sister doing newspaper work in Russia. **GEORGE G. WARD**, former associate of subject, expressed opinion subject is a Communist, stating on one occasion two years ago subject left two suitcases full of Communist literature at his home. Advised subject was pacifist prior to German invasion of Russia and advocated U. S. intervention immediately following invasion.

-P-

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **MARCUS B. CAIHOUN** dated 11/13/42 at Atlanta, Georgia.

DETAILS:

AT GAINESVILLE, GA.

Mr. **W. L. WALKER**, Superintendent of Schools, Hall County, advised the reporting agent that **DONALD LEE WEST** was presently principal of Lula School System at Lula, Georgia, having taken over his duties in September, 1942.

AT LULA, GA.

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Atlanta, SAC-559

Mr. R. F. JONES, Mayor, informed the agent that subject was quiet and kept quite a bit to himself. WEST, said Mr. JONES, appears to be well educated but does not give the impression of being very congenial and has adopted an attitude of aloofness toward natives of Lula generally. JONES stated that WEST attends the Baptist Church in Lula and teaches Sunday School at that church, and on occasions subject is also known to attend the Methodist Church and teach Sunday School there. Mayor JONES advised the agent not to contact Postmaster JOHN E. JONES regarding subject inasmuch as WEST and JOHN E. JONES have become very friendly and are seen together quite a bit. Mayor JONES also noted that upon meeting the subject and JOHN E. JONES together they have a habit of cutting short their conversation upon the approach of a third party. Mayor JONES stated that he has often wondered why the subject came to Lula with all his high ideas and his wealth of education.

WEST, said Mr. JONES, told him that he was a "layman preacher." Because of this Mayor JONES has often induced subject to give talks in the Sunday School classes at the Baptist Church. Regarding the theme of these talks Mayor JONES stated that he has never noticed any indication that subject has any foreign tendencies. These talks generally deal with local affairs in relation to the Baptist religion, stated JONES.

Mrs. MAUD IVEY, of the Lula School, was mentioned by Mayor JONES as being reliable and trustworthy. Mrs. IVEY informed the agent that she has always regarded Mr. WEST as a very high type person and that never on any occasion has he attempted to indoctrinate anyone at the school or in Lula with any foreign philosophy. Mrs. IVEY stated that the subject on many occasion has stated that the people in democracies have the ideal communities where everyone works for a common cause and where mutual cooperation was the guiding force in the lives of the people. Mrs. IVEY also informed that WEST had told her he has a sister who is a newspaper woman in Russia. Mrs. IVEY stated that the subject is quite prominent in church and social affairs and that because of this she has never suspected WEST in the slightest. She also stated that the subject was very intimate with Postmaster JOHN E. JONES, and HUBERT TATE. TATE, incidentally, was also mentioned by Mayor JONES as being very friendly toward WEST.

No attempt was made by the agent to make further contacts regarding the subject at this time inasmuch as Mayor R. F. JONES informed the agent that people in Lula are generally quite garrulous and that any news of an investigation regarding the subject would immediately be circulated around the community.

AT ATLANTA, GA.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent
MARCUS B. CALHOUN:

A check of the 1912 City Directory for Atlanta, and the current Telephone Directory, failed to reveal any GEORGE G. WARD. The 1936, 1937, and 1938 City Directories for Atlanta listed a GEORGE G. WARD, wife TEMPIE E. WARD, residing

Atlanta, 100-559

at 177 Elizabeth Street, N. E. The 1939, 1940, and 1941 Directories contained no record of GEORGE G. WARD. The 1942 City Directory for Atlanta listed a TEMPIE WARD as residing in Apartment #1, 126 Hurt Street, N. E.

Mrs. SALLIE R. SPINKS, 126 Hurt Street, N. E., advised on interview that she was the mother of TEMPIE WARD, the divorced wife of GEORGE GORDON WARD. She stated that her daughter had not lived with WARD for approximately four years. Mrs. SPINKS stated that GEORGE G. WARD had formerly been associated with a man named DONALD L. WEST but that she did not know just what the nature of their relationship was. She advised that her daughter, Mrs. TEMPIE WARD, was employed by the Atlanta Tuberculosis Association, 286 Forrest Avenue.

Mrs. TEMPIE WARD advised upon interview that her husband, GEORGE G. WARD, resided on Central Avenue in Atlanta and was employed by the WPA. She was unable to furnish his exact address. Mrs. WARD stated that GEORGE WARD had been born and reared in Gilmer County, Georgia, and that he had known DONALD WEST in Gilmer County. She advised that she knew her former husband had been associated with WEST but was unable to furnish information as to the nature of the association. She said that WARD had brought WEST to their home several times before they were divorced. She stated, however, that she had not had much conversation with WEST and could furnish no information regarding his nationalistic tendencies.

Mrs. WARD stated that she had two children and that her former husband came to see the children at her home approximately once each week.

Mrs. WARD stated that she had never heard WARD make any statement concerning WEST which would indicate that WEST was Communist, and that her former husband would not have anything to do with WEST if he were a Communist. She stated that WARD was definitely a loyal American, and expressed the opinion that he would be more than willing to furnish any information in his possession regarding the nationalistic tendencies of WEST.

Mr. B. L. PAYNE, employment manager of the WPA, 10 Forsyth Street Building, Atlanta, advised after a check of his records that GEORGE G. WARD, WPA #1160-29614, was presently employed by the WPA as a Cost and Materials clerk at Fort McPherson. He stated that his records indicated WARD had been born at Winterport, Georgia, on July 9, 1887.

GEORGE G. WARD, 642 Central Avenue, advised upon interview that he was acquainted with DONALD L. WEST, having known him for many years. He said that he and WEST were natives of Gilmer County, Georgia. WARD advised that he was the official historian for Gilmer County and that WEST, being an author, was interested in the history of Gilmer County. WARD advised that WEST had assisted him in gathering data and doing research work on the history of Gilmer County.

WARD advised that approximately two years ago when WEST was

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preaching in a small church near Sebulon, Georgia, he had come to Atlanta to spend the night with him in his home on Central Avenue. WARD stated that when WEST left his residence after spending the night he had left two suitcases and asked WARD to take care of them for him. WARD stated that he had opened the suitcases after WEST had left to see what they contained and found that they were full of literature which he considered to be Communist literature. WARD advised that when WEST returned to his house in the afternoon he had told him that he was not interested in Communist literature and requested that he remove the suitcases and literature from his home at once, and stated that WEST had complied with this request.

GEORGE WARD stated that WEST was very radical in his views and very pro-labor. He advised that he himself was an open minded individual and had associated with WEST despite his radical ideas because he, WARD, believed that every man was entitled to his own political and religious views.

WARD was questioned concerning WEST's attitude toward the current war, particularly as to how he felt before and after the German invasion of Russia. He stated that he recalled that WEST had been a pacifist before the German invasion of Russia and that shortly thereafter WEST had changed and advocated U. S. intervention into the war. WARD advised that he recalled questioning WEST concerning this and stated that WEST had answered by saying that prior to Russia's involvement in the war the war had been an "imperialistic war" but that since Hitler had attacked Russia it was now a "worker's war." WARD advised further that at WEST's insistence he had subscribed to a paper known as the Southern News Almanac, published in Birmingham, Alabama. He stated that after receiving several copies of this newspaper he decided it was a very radical publication and probably of Communistic origin, so he had requested that WEST have his subscription cancelled. WARD advised that this was done.

WARD stated that WEST never actually told him that he was a Communist or a member of the Communist Party, and never tried to get him to join the Communist Party. He stated, however, that from his dealings and conversations with WEST he was definitely of the opinion that WEST was a Communist.

WARD stated that he last saw WEST in September of 1942 when WEST came to his home on Central Avenue and advised him that he was attempting to get a job as a school teacher at Lula, Georgia. WARD stated that WEST had tried to get him to write a letter of endorsement to the School Board of Hall County to assist him in getting this position. WARD advised that he was of the opinion that Communists had no place in public schools and, therefore, had refused to endorse WEST. He stated that he did not know whether or not WEST had been successful in securing this position because he had not seen him since that time.

WARD volunteered the information that he had attended no meetings of the Communist Party with WEST and had made no contributions to the Communist cause.

PENDING

Atlanta, 100-559

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION AT Lula, Georgia, will maintain contact with Mayor R. F. JONES and Mrs. NAUD IVBY, Lula School, to develop further information concerning subject's activities in and around Lula.

PENDING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO.

100-539 31

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 10/5/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/5,7,13/43	REPORT MADE BY ALTON H. BLANTON
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases: Reverend Donald L. West, Don West			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject continues to be active in civic and church work. Former teacher under subject advised he suspected subject of being Communist, though he cannot substantiate his suspicion.

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REFERENCES:

Bureau file 100-20396.
Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN, Atlanta, 7/9/43; Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN, Atlanta, 5/12/43.

DETAILS:

AT LULA, GEORGIA.

R. F. JONES, Mayor, advised that subject is still very active in civic and church affairs in this vicinity. The subject opened the Lula-Belton School, of which he is Principal, on August 30, 1943. Subject, in the school auditorium, at the opening of the school, introduced one CLAUDE IVIE, a local boy, whose mother teaches in the school, and who fought in the Aleutian Islands in the present world conflict. WEST praised IVIE'S actions in battle very highly and made a short talk pertaining to patriotism.

Mr. JONES stated he would advise the Atlanta Field Office in the event WEST moved from Lula or engaged in any suspicious activities.

AT HOMER, GEORGIA.

CAEL SEACRAVES, Vocational Agricultural teacher at the Banks County High School, advised that he taught at the Lula-Belton School under

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the subject last year but he had not made any effort to return to that school this year, due to his dislike for the Principal. Mr. SEAGRAVES stated he had taught for eight consecutive years at this school prior to leaving on July 1, 1943. SEAGRAVES gave the following information concerning the subject:

Subject told him, while he was teaching under him, that he had traveled extensively in Russia and in Germany and Belgium; that subject was very high in his praise of Russia. Subject never told him that he attended school in either Berlin or Paris. It is his information that subject was born and reared in Gilmer County and attended Oglethorpe University. He was told by subject that the reason he came to the Lula-Belton School was in order to get information for a novel which he was writing concerning rural people. Subject was always desirous of getting before the public. He organized several "Victory Clubs" in the vicinity of Lula in January, 1943, but did not carry on the work which he started with the clubs.

SEAGRAVES advised that in his opinion, the subject was a Communist, though he had nothing to substantiate his suspicion.

AT COLUMBIA, GEORGIA.

On September 7, 1943, RALPH W. WATERS, Principal of the Hickory Flat School, which is located approximately five miles east of Lula, gave the following information concerning the subject:

Subject came to his school in March, 1943 and organized a Victory Garden Club, however, he made only one other trip to this vicinity and the club never did get well under way. Subject told him that he attended Vanderbilt College, Nashville, Tennessee and had taken a course at the University of Berlin and at the University of Paris in either 1938 or 1939. This informant further advised he could get more information concerning the educational background of the subject, at which time he would get in touch with an Agent of this office and pass his findings on to him.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent MARCUS B. CALHOUN:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Mrs. BETH FERGUSON, Registrar, Oglethorpe University, stated that her records indicated that DONALD L. WEST of Lula, Georgia enrolled in that institution during the Fall term of 1942 for courses in Adult Education. She stated that

Atlanta, 10-2-50.

this work was being done on a Master's degree in Education. Dr. FERGUSON advised that WESC had taken courses under Professor LLOYD GASTNER and Dr. H. J. GARDNER.

Dr. H. J. GARDNER advised that DONALD E. WESC had given a course in Adult Education under him at Oglethorpe University during the Fall term of 1942 and Spring term of 1943. He described WESC as being highly intelligent and a very attentive pupil, stating that WESC had never made any statement in his presence to indicate that he was anything other than a loyal American citizen. Dr. GARDNER stated that WESC had returned to school from Macon, Georgia, where he was employed as Principal in a high school and that he had not been particularly friendly with anyone in his class. Dr. GASTNER stated that he had probably had more conversations with WESC than anyone else at Oglethorpe University and advised that he considered him to be a good American.

In view of the fact that there is no indication that this subject is presently engaged in Communist activity, this case is being marked closed on the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

- CLOSED -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

ATTN.

FILE NO.

100-559-21

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 7/12/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/22/43	REPORT MADE BY JOHN E. GILLMAN
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TITLE DONALD DEWEY, with aliases	CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C; SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES
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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject has been reappointed Principal of Lula-Delton School, Hall County. Subject still very active in civic, social and educational affairs in Hall County. Has become very intimate with HENRY F. and JAMES J. JONES, both of Lula, Ga. Sheriff, Banks County, Ga., reports rumors spreading throughout the vicinity to the effect that subject is anti-American. Sheriff J. J. JONES advises that subject has made statements to effect that he has received education in Germany. Subject reportedly has farm in Cartersville, Ga.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLMAN, Atlanta, 5/12/43.

DETAILS:

AT LULA, GEORGIA.

Mayor H. T. JONES informed the writer that DONALD DEWEY has been reappointed Principal of the Lula-Delton Schools. Mr. JONES further advised that subject is no longer taking graduate courses at Morehouse University in Atlanta and is spending practically all his time in Hall and Banks County. Mr. JONES further stated that DEWEY has changed his residence to a site adjoining the school and that subsequent to DEWEY'S change of residence, he has had quite a few visitors.

Mr. JONES also advised that DEWEY still conducts his radio programs over Station WGA every Friday afternoon, Gainesville, Georgia. He also stated that DEWEY has, on quite a few occasions, requested that he, Mr. JONES,

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<i>[Signature]</i>		100-559-21

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give a talk on one of these projects. Mr. JONES stated that JONES is still quite active in all local, civic, church and educational affairs and still spends practically all his time in Hall County and White County, giving lectures. However, Mr. JONES was unable to give any information as to the subject matter of subject's talks, only that subject is known to be racially anti-Nazi. It was also ascertained from Mr. JONES that JONES has developed quite a friendship for Mr. JONES and Mr. JONES, the Postmaster. Mr. JONES stated that on several occasions, JONES has had a few visitors and that on these occasions, JONES and JONES have always been present. Mr. JONES stated that he has learned from JONES that JONES has a farm in Carterville, Georgia, where he spends quite a bit of time preparing his lectures. JONES also advised Mr. JONES that his mother is presently living on this farm in Carterville, Georgia.

AT HALL COUNTY, GEORGIA.

Sheriff JONES was contacted the writer and advised that he had been contacted on several occasions by people living near the subject's home in Hall County and had been informed that the subject was regarded rather suspiciously because of the fact that he was heard to remark on several occasions that he had received the greater part of his education in Germany. Sheriff JONES stated that WALTER JONES, Principal of the Hickory Flat School, was very upset over subject's attitude towards the present emergency. Sheriff JONES stated that WALTER could be contacted at Cornelia, Ga. and that he could give quite a bit of first-hand information regarding the subject. Sheriff JONES stated that he had learned from an individual, whose identity he would not disclose, that the subject seemed to be more anti-Nazi than anti-American.

PENDING

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Atlanta, 100-557.

MEMORANDUM

THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, at Rock Hill, Georgia, will contact FALIN and discreetly interview him as to his knowledge of subject's background and present activities.

At Wrens, Georgia, will take steps to develop suitable informants in this area in order to maintain coverage of subject's activity in this vicinity.

At Irma, Georgia, will maintain contact with Major R. P. JONES in order to develop any further information he may have as to subject's activities.

FALIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

FILE NO. 100-559

VG

REPORT MADE AT <u>Atlanta, Georgia.</u>	DATE WHEN MADE <u>1-1-43</u>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <u>3-20-43</u>	REPORT MADE BY <u>JOHN E. GILLIGAN.</u>
TITLE <u>DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases.</u>			CHARACTER OF CASE <u>INTERNAL SECURITY - C, CUSTODIAL DETENTION.</u>

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: R. F. JONES, Lula, Georgia, advises subject is now conducting radio program each Friday at 4:05 P.M. over station OGA, Gainesville, Georgia. Program consists of lecture by subject and student interviews. JONES advises subject giving many lectures throughout Hall County and adjoining counties on present war situation. Very anti-Nazi in these talks. Subject reported to make weekly trips to Atlanta. WEST developing close friendship with HUBERT TATE and JOHN B. JONES, both of Lula, Georgia.

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REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN, Atlanta, Georgia, January 22, 1943.

DETAILS: AT LULA, GEORGIA.

Mayor R. F. JONES informed the writer that subsequent to last contact he had learned that subject was conducting radio programs for the children of his school over station OGA, Gainesville, Georgia, each Friday at 4:05 P.M. WEST, said Mr. JONES, gives a short lecture on each one of these radio programs, the subject matter consisting primarily of the school children's duties in this present emergency, and a discussion of the war situation. Mr. JONES stated that WEST devotes much attention to the fact that the school children must prepare to take over control of the country at the close of the war. In the course of these lectures Mr. JONES stated subject deals with the position of the United States in the present emergency and WEST states that the United States must go all out to win this war.

In addition to these radio programs each Friday afternoon, Mr. JONES advised that WEST gives many lectures throughout Hall County and adjoining counties

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on various topics. In all of these talks, Mr. JONES stated, WEST is very anti-Nazi and has stated that the United States should make every effort to defeat Germany.

Mr. JONES went on to say that RONALD WEST makes a weekly trip to Atlanta, however, the purpose of this trip and his destination in Atlanta is unknown to Mr. JONES. In connection with this JONES stated that he would take special means to out where the subject goes when he visits Atlanta.

Mr. JONES advised the writer that it would be unadvisable that further contact be made by this office with Mrs. MABEL BRY on the Lula School, who was contacted previously by the writer, because, said Mr. JONES, she has become quite friendly with the subject during recent months. WEST has developed a close friendship also with HUBERT TATE and JOHN E. JONES, Postmaster, both of Lula, Georgia.

Regarding TATE, Mr. JONES advised that this man is not too loyal to the United States, and that he might very easily adopt principles as taught by WEST.

No further information was forthcoming from Mr. JONES, but he stated that he would make it a point to keep in close contact with the subject in order to develop further information.

PENDING.

Atlanta, 100-559.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

The ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION at Lula, Georgia, will maintain contact with R. F. JONES in order to ascertain reasons for subject's weekly trip to Atlanta, and who subject visits while in Atlanta. Also, will obtain any additional information Mr. JONES might develop.

PENDING.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-559

EDG

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 8-3-44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-29-43; 6-19; 7-12, 13, 1944	REPORT MADE BY ALTON M. BLANTON
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Confidential Informant [redacted] advised this subject called upon her on 12-29-43 and advised he had seen ROBERT F. FALL from Chattanooga, Tennessee and FALL instructed him to get information about a spy in the Communist Party in Georgia. Subject advised informant this spy is FRANK McALLISTER of Atlanta, Georgia. Subject further advised that he was teaching school in Lula, Georgia and intended to run for Congress at the next election; he stated he is married, has two children and that his entire family is Communist. Subject further advised that he believed he had been successful in organizing an active branch of the Communist Party at Lula. Investigation reflects that subject was candidate for Hall County, Georgia representative to the State Legislature in the State Primary July 4, 1944 but was defeated. Investigation Lula, Georgia reflects subject is still very active in civic, social and educational affairs. Case placed in pending inactive status.

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REFERENCE: Report of special Agent ALTON M. BLANTON dated October 5, 1943 at Atlanta, Georgia.

Letter from the Bureau to the Atlanta Field Division dated February 21, 1944.

Report of Special Agent JOHN E. GILLIGAN dated July 19, 1943 at Atlanta, Georgia.

100-70707-13
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FBI - RICHMOND

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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Atlanta, File 100-559

DETAILS:

II.

On December 30, 1943, Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, contacted this office and gave the following information to Special Agent MARCUS B. CALHOUN:

Subject, Lula, Georgia, called upon her on the night of December 9, 1943 at 9:30 P.M. and stated that he had gone to Atlanta, Georgia from Monteagle, Tennessee where he had spent some time with ARNOLD [redacted]. Subject advised that he had seen ROBERT F. HALL in Chattanooga, Tennessee and that HALL had [redacted] and furnish information about a spy in the Communist Party in Georgia. (It is to be noted that Robert F. Hall is the former Secretary of the Communist Party, District #17). Subject stated that the Communist Party had determined that one FRANK McALLISTER of Atlanta, Georgia was a spy who pretended to be interested in the party work but who in reality was trying to get information about the party. The subject stated that he had recently received a letter from FRANK McALLISTER wherein McALLISTER had questioned him as to his activities but that he had not given McALLISTER any information. WEST further advised that he wished to speak to some of the Communist leaders in Atlanta concerning this matter and specifically requesting that the informant contact NATHAN KATZ and WHITMAN DAY and ask them to call at the meeting place. KATZ and DAY were contacted along with JOSEPH A. MORELAND, W. B. JENKISS and CECILIA DIAMOND and that all these individuals came to a meeting. The subject informed the individuals that the party was suspicious of McALLISTER; that it was highly possible that McALLISTER might try to get some information from them for the FBI and that they were to give him no information whatsoever. WEST stated that people like McALLISTER were the main cause of the Communist Party in the South going underground at the present time. He stated that the Communist Party had a person who was watching McALLISTER. He further advised that JOSEPHINE WILKINS who works for the Citizens Fact-Finding Committee in the Forsyth Street Building was very friendly with McALLISTER and was watching every move he makes. He stated that as long as he felt that JOSEPHINE was his friend the Communist Party did not have anything to worry about. The Informant stated that subject was questioned as to what connection WILKINS had with the Communist Party and he stated that she was a good Communist.

WHITMAN DAY questioned subject as to whether or not FRANK McALLISTER had any party connections and subject replied, "We won't discuss that now". He was questioned as to why the Party was suspicious of McALLISTER and stated that McALLISTER had recently gotten a very fine office in a downtown building and that the party believed he was being watched by the FBI and that the person he worked for. He stated that he was sure that McALLISTER would stop at nothing once he found out anything concerning the members of other Communist Party groups.

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Atlanta, file 100-850

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Confidential Informant [] further advised that the meeting referred to above subject stated that at the present time he is doing research work because he intended to run for Congress from his Congressional district in the next election. He stated he was making a speech over the radio from Gainesville, Georgia each Friday night and in this way was gaining considerable publicity which he believed would aid in his campaign. He stated he had been actively campaigning for a nine months' school year for the colored schools and had been successful in obtaining a nine months' school year for them. He advised that he was teaching school in Lula, Georgia and that he came to Atlanta every two weeks to attend classes at Georgia Tech. He advised that he is married, has two children and that his entire family is Communist. He stated he has a sister who has just returned from the Soviet Union and is presently in New York City where she is writing a book. The subject said that due to the fact that he is principal of the school at Lula and exerted a great deal of influence in that community, he believed he would be successful in organizing an active branch of the Communist Party there.

AT GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA:

On July 13, 1944, Sheriff W. A. CROWE advised that subject was a candidate for Hall County, Georgia representative in the State Legislature in the State Primary on July 4, 1944 but was defeated. Sheriff CROWE delivered to the reporting agent some of the subject's campaign literature which has a picture of the subject on it. Copies of this campaign literature are being retained in the files of this office. CROWE stated that he would closely follow the activities of the subject and report any activities inimical to the interest of this country.

AT LULA, GEORGIA:

R. F. JONES, former Mayor, owner and operator of a store and filling station gave the following information:

The subject's closest friends in this community are JOHN BANKS, Chairman of the School Board, who ran for the Office of Sheriff of Hall County, Georgia in October, 1943 but was defeated, and JOHN E. JONES, Postmaster. (in view of the close friendship between the subject and the Postmaster, a mail cover is not being placed on the subject). There is no evidence of the subject engaging in any subversive activities. Subject is still very active in civic, social and educational affairs. He trades with this informant and uses his telephone on many occasions.

JONES advised that his is one of the few telephones in this community. JONES stated that it is his information that the subject has endeavored to enlist in the service as a Chaplain, but has been turned down due to not being a member of the church. Following the activities of the subject, he will report anything which he feels to be of value to the writer.

Atlanta, File 100-559

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA:

Confidential Informant T-1 advised this office that it has been ascertained that a communication has been received by the Communist headquarters at Birmingham, Alabama, from the "Daily Worker Press Club", Branch record card No. 33895 dated February 29, 1944, containing the name of J. A. WALKER, Lula, Georgia.

AT LULA, GEORGIA:

R. F. JONES was re-contacted and advised that to his knowledge there was no individual named J. A. WALKER residing at Lula. JONES stated that he would make a diligent investigation endeavoring to ascertain if it is possible there is a J. A. WALKER living in this vicinity and if so will notify the reporting agent.

Inasmuch as arrangements have been made for the following of the subject's activities, this case is being placed in a pending inactive status upon the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

P E N D I N G

Atlanta, file 100-369

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION:

AT LULA, GEORGIA, will within a reasonable length of time re-contact R. F. JONES for any further information which he has to report on the subject.

AT GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA, will within a reasonable length of time re-contact Sheriff CROWE and determine if he has any further information relative to the subject.

P E N D I N G

Atlanta, File 100-559

SOURCE OF INFORMATION CHECK

Confidential Informant T-1 referred to in this report is a highly confidential source of information of the Birmingham Field Division.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA**

FILE NO. **100-559**

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 7-20-45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-1, 12-1 '45	REPORT MADE BY JOSE T. DILLARD VVM
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was , Rev. Donald L. West, Don West.		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject reported to be presently attending New York University, New York City, under Rosenwald Scholarship.

REFERENCES:

Report of Special Agent ALTON M. BLANTON, Atlanta, dated February 8, 1945.

DETAILS:

At GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA:

Sheriff W. A. CROWE, Hall County, Gainesville, Georgia, advised that subject is presently attending New York University, New York City under a Rosenwald Scholarship. Subject is considered to be a key figure in Communist activities in the Atlanta Field Division and made the statement that he was successful in organizing a branch of the Communist Party at Lula, Georgia.

PENDING

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At NEW YORK CITY, will endeavor to ascertain whether subject is presently attending New York University and if possible ascertain his activities while there.

ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION

* At GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA, will within a reasonable length of time, recontact Sheriff W. A. CROWE and ascertain if he has any further information relative to the activities of the subject.

At LULA, GEORGIA, will recontact confidential informant T-1 mentioned in referenced report.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO. 100-529

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 8/1/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/1/44	REPORT MADE BY ALTON M. BLAXTON
TITLE INTERNAL SECURITY - C			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

MILDRED BERRY HILL, subject of Knoxville file 100-1733 and also, according to Knoxville Office is familiar with Communist matters, visited subject for three or four months beginning the first of 1944. A book of poems subject wrote entitled "Toil and Hunger" directed to share croppers, textile employees, and miners, is in school library, Lula, Georgia, where subject is superintendent. Subject defeated for president of Hill County, Ga. Teachers' Association. Superintendent of Education advised subject's un-American tendencies known to Board of Education; subject probably will not be re-elected superintendent of Lula Schools at expiration of present school year. Subject visited at New York City during Christmas holidays. Subject has publicly denounced Communism in Lula, Georgia where he is very active in civic, religious, and educational affairs. Case placed in pending inactive status.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent ALTON M. BLAXTON dated 8/3/44 Atlanta, Ga.

DETAILS:

On October 28, 1944, confidential informant T-1 advised that MILDRED BERRY HILL had visited in the home of the subject for three or four months beginning the first of 1944. Records in this office reflect that HILL is subject of Knoxville, Tennessee file 100-1733, Atlanta file 100-3923 and according to the Knoxville Office, is familiar with Communist matters. A review of Atlanta

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File 100-3923 reflects that [redacted] worked in a textile mill at New Holland, Georgia from January 11, 1943 to March 4, 1944 at which time he quit of his own accord, allegedly to go to New York to live with his sister.

Confidential Source [redacted] advised to the reporting agent a book of poems by subject entitled "Poil and Loo'er", which is directed to sharecroppers, textile employees, and miners. This informant further advised that this book of poems is kept in the school library at Lula, Georgia where the subject is superintendent. A review of this book of poems reflected that it was printed by the Macglund Press at San Benito, Texas, U.S. The introduction which is written by J. B. [redacted] has this to say in the last paragraph "this man is not confined to the mountains. He has been a hobo and globe trotter. After thumbing his way over the United States, he went abroad and peddled a bicycle over Germany, England, France, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and other countries. Few men of his age have had the varied experience of [redacted]."

This informant further advised that R. E. JONES, Postmaster at Lula, Georgia, is the closest friend subject has in this community. For this reason, no mail cover has been placed with the Postmaster on subject's mail. This informant further advised that the subject visited in New York City during the Christmas holidays, 1944, for approximately two weeks and upon his return stated that he went to New York to see about writing a book. Subject did not reveal the name of the book which he intended to write. This informant further advised that subject who is very active in civic, religious, and educational affairs and in the vicinity of Lula, Georgia, has publicly denounced Communism in this area. He stated he had heard the subject denounce Communism in the pulpit of the Lula Baptist Church and from the stage in the auditorium of the Lula School. This informant was of the opinion that subject's action in denouncing Communism was intended to throw any of the local people off who might think he was engaged in any un-American tendencies.

At Gainesville, Georgia

On October 5, 1944, B. REEVE TURNIPSEED, Personnel Director, Facolet Mfg. Company, New Holland Mill, advised that he was recently elected President of the Fall County, Georgia Teachers' Association. He stated at the time the election the subject was his opponent and from all appearances had a lot of supporters among the school teachers in the vicinity of Lula, Georgia. He stated, however, that outside the vicinity of Lula, Georgia, the subject had very few supporters and from what he had heard various teachers say, whose names he did not remember,

the subject is being discussed among the school teachers. Several
other school board members say that they did not feel the
subject was a loyal American citizen although they did not have anything
to say about his activities. To the best of his knowledge
H. C. WYLLIE, superintendent of education, was bitterly opposed to
the subject and felt that the subject was engaged in un-American activities.

On the same date, JARRARD was contacted and gave the
following information. He is convinced from information which he has
received from the community where subject formerly taught and lived in
the vicinity of Meansville, Georgia and from the subject's activities
since coming to Hall County, Georgia, that he, the subject, is not a loyal
American citizen, and is probably engaged in un-American activities,
probably being active in Communist meetings. JARRARD stated that he had
no concrete evidence to substantiate this belief. JARRARD stated that the
subject's un-American tendencies were known to the Hall County Board of
education and that in all probability the subject would not be reelected
as Superintendent of Lula Schools at the expiration of the present school
year. JARRARD stated that subject told him he visited in New York City
during the Christmas holidays from December 23, 1944 to January 1, 1945.
Subject did not say the purpose of his visit to New York.

On August 12, 1944, ROBERT GARLAND of Meansville,
Georgia called at the Atlanta Field Division and furnished Assistant Agent
in Charge A. I. PONS, with pamphlets which he stated were received in
the vicinity of Meansville from the subject. He also advised that he had
received two letters from WILHELM W. TATE, P. O. Box 131, Lula, Georgia,
at which time Mr. TATE requested information concerning the subject. These
pamphlets consist of the February, March, and June, 1944 issues of the
"Southern Patriot" published at Nashville, Tennessee, edited by JAMES A.
DUBOISE and the pamphlet entitled "There are Things to Do" by LILLIAN E.
SMITH. All the pamphlets dealt in substance with the racial situation in
the South and advocated no race discrimination and an equal opportunity
to all people regardless of race, color, or creed. These pamphlets are
being retained in the files of this office.

At Gainesville, Georgia

On August 19, 1944, R. C. McCLURE, Deputy Clerk, U.S.
District Court, advised that J. E. JOHNS, Postmaster, Lula, Georgia, con-
tacted his office and requested him to have an FBI agent come to see him
at Lula in the very near future.

At Lula, Georgia

On August 19, 1944, W. E. JOHNS, Postmaster, at which

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He stated he had been Postmaster for nineteen years and that during this time he had made several enemies in this community. For the past twelve to eighteen months, some of his had been trying to oust the subject as superintendent of education at the Lula, Walton School. JONES stated he and the subject are very close friends and, in his opinion, the subject is a splendid superintendent of education and "a 100% American citizen." JONES stated that RUBY O. TATE had been the leader of the movement to oust the subject as superintendent there. He advised TATE had put out information that the subject was wanted by the FBI. JONES stated for this reason he desired to contact the FBI and ascertain if this was true. JONES was advised by the reporting agent that any information contained in the FBI files is strictly confidential and the Attorney General has held that the information cannot be released.

At Gainesville, Georgia

On January 24, 1948, Sheriff W. A. "Bill" CROW, advised that the subject is not as active in civic, religious, and educational affairs as he was approximately one year ago and that, in his opinion, he is losing considerable strength, Fall County, Georgia. CROW produced a letter to the subject dated April 29, 1944 from the CIO Political Action, Southeastern Region, 75 Ivy Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia, signed GEORGE MITCHELL, Regional Director, endorsing "COLSEY for the U. S. Senate against GEORGE, the incumbent."

CROW stated that in his opinion neither J. E. JONES, Postmaster, Lula, Georgia, nor RUBY O. TATE, School Official, Lula, Georgia, should be contacted relative to subject inasmuch as JONES is the subject's best friend and TATE is a very indiscreet and unpopular politician. CROW stated that TATE probably could not be confided in. CROW assured the writer that he was following subject's activities very closely and he would report his findings to an agent of the FBI from time to time.

Confidential Informant T-1 also assured the writer that he would follow and report activities of the subject as Special Agent of the FBI from time to time.

In view of the arrangements for the following of the subject's activities, this case is being placed in a pending inactive status upon the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

ATLANTA

At Lula, Georgia

Will, within a reasonable length of time, re-contact Sheriff G. A. Bell, Lula, Georgia in order to ascertain if he has any further information relative to the activities of the subject.

At Lula, Georgia

Will, within a reasonable length of time, re-contact confidential informant T-1 for any further information which he has relative to the activities of the subject.

Best Copy

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Atlanta

Confidential Informant T-1 referred to in
this report: [redacted]

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[redacted] margin with other subject names.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

FILE NO. **100-559** DLS

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 3-12-47	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31/47	REPORT MADE BY GEORGE P. DILLARD
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject presently residing Oglethorpe University, Georgia, and teaching at Oglethorpe University. Pamphlet "Georgia's Crisis" setting forth radio speech of subject against Georgia White Primary Bill being circularized by Communists. Subject has been observed in contact with HOMER CHASE, State Secretary for the State of Georgia, comprising District No. 31, Communist Party, U.S.A.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau File 100-20396
Report of Special Agent CLEMENT L. MCGOWAN, dated August 3, 1946, at Atlanta.

DETAILS: The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent LESTER G. DAVIS:

On various above dates confidential informant T-1 advised that subject was to return to Lula, Georgia from New York and planned to take pictures of the Lula High School for an article to be put in some communist publication. He stated that subject did return to Lula, Georgia on January 9, 1946, accompanied by one GILBERT STANGE from Magazine Seventeen and Mrs. DICK LYLES, Photographer for this magazine and several pictures were made of the school which accompanied an article concerning the subject in the June issue of the magazine SEVENTEEN.

T-1 further advised that an article concerning subject's activities as a superintendent of schools at Lula, Georgia was in the January, 1946 issue of READER'S SCOPE, a Magazine published by Picture Scope Company, 114 East 32nd Street, New York 16, N. Y., the title of the article being, "From the Hills of Georgia", by GRIFFIN DAVIS. The article states that subject for twelve years wandered, seeking the road which would lead to that area of the battle where he could be

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most effective. That he visited Scandinavia, where democracy had achieved its greatest growth and that he had traveled the highways and the dirt roads of the United States preaching and studying the problems of his own people -- the rural Southerner, the sharecropper, the tenant farmer. The article stated that in subject's own words, "The school must more than ever become the breeding-ground and brooder-house for the principles of democratic freedom. Schools must truly concern themselves with a philosophy of life built around tolerance and consideration of others."

A copy of this issue of READER'S SCOPE is being retained in the file of the Atlanta Field Division inasmuch as it quotes WEST as to his aims and views concerning democracy and facism.

T-1 further advised that subject entered the University of Georgia on April 8, 1946 to take three courses in education. He further advised that subject was writing a book, the title of which is, "Clouds Over the Earth" and it is believed to be along communistic lines.

An article in the Atlanta Constitution, dated August 30, 1946, entitled "Poet DON WEST, Here on Visit, Will Join Oglethorpe Faculty", is set forth as follows:

WEST, who was described as a young Georgia poet, whose first volume, "Clods of Southern Earth," has won nationwide acclaim for its honesty and realism, said that he is still amazed at the surprising reception his book has received. This collection of short poems broke a publishing record when 13,000 copies were sold before the book came from the press. WEST was in Atlanta as the featured author-guest of the New Georgian Book Shop, 106 Forsyth Street, N. W.

This article further disclosed that WEST plans writing a novel in the future entitled, "No Lonesome Road", and also a history of the South, in which he stated he would reveal some facts never before recorded. This article further relates that WEST stated he had been invited to join the faculty of Oglethorpe University, and will teach Sacred Literature (the Prophets of the Old Testament) and writing English.

An article in the Atlanta Journal, dated October 13, 1946, entitled, "Over 100 Adults Enroll For Oglethorpe Classes", related that 100 Atlantians have enrolled in the Oglethorpe University's Division of Adult Education classes, and that DON WEST, formerly Superintendent of Schools in Lula, Georgia, and author of "Clods of Southern Earth", is teaching students of creative literature in contemporary America.

In his column in the Atlanta Constitution, dated October 14, 1946, HAROLD MARTIN, columnist for the Atlanta Constitution, stated that his semi-book review of DON WEST'S book of poems, "Clods of Southern Earth", wherein he referred to the author as a "young Georgia poet", will have a wide interest in all circles - caused a considerable stir in certain circles. This

Atlanta, 100-559

article reflects that the most outrageous blast against H. O. TATE, of Lula, Georgia, where for a number of years TATE was Superintendent of Schools. In a strong personal attack TATE pointed out that WEST was mentioned in a book called "The Fifth Column in the South", published by the International Educational League of Birmingham, and that he had published a newspaper with Communist leanings.

Mr. MARTIN'S column further stated that JOE E. JONES, Postmaster at Lula, Georgia, came to WEST'S defense, as did Rev. Luther TULLY, of Darien, and M. FERN MADDOX, of Alpharetta.

Special Agent CLEMENT L. DOGGETT ascertained that subject is presently employed as a professor at Oglethorpe University, Oglethorpe University, Georgia, and is residing there.

In an article from the Marietta Daily Journal, dated November 5, 1946, entitled "Woman's Club At Smyrna Hears Post DON WEST", it was reflected that DON WEST, author of "Clods of Southern Earth", read poems from his book at an open meeting Monday night at the Woman's Club. "His poems, expressed with simplicity, revealed an understanding and compassion for share-croppers, tenants, Negroes and Georgia Crackers."

The Macon News, dated March 1, 1947, reflected that DON WEST would address a chapel assembly at Mercer University Tuesday noon, under the sponsorship of the speech and sociology departments of Mercer University.

The following information concerning subject was obtained during a surveillance of HOMER BATES CHASE, State Chairman of the Communist Party for the State of Georgia, comprising District #31 of the Communist Party, U.S.A.

On February 4, at 8:25 P.M., CHASE and DON WEST were observed by Special Agents J. TRUETT BROOKSHER, PATRICK M. RICE, CLEMENT M. MCGOWAN, JR. and the writer, leaving the Butler Street Y.M.C.A. in the 1942 Plymouth which belongs to CHASE. They were immediately followed by ROBERT E. HARKS and JAMES E. WILLIAMS, representatives of the National Maritime Union from Savannah, Georgia, and reported Communists. It was noted that a conference of the Southern Committee of the National Religion and Labor Foundation was in progress at the Butler Street Y.M.C.A. at the time. The cars proceeded to the Francis Hotel, 343 Peachtree Street, where CHASE picked up MAX WEISS, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and Secretary of the Education, Agitation and Publicity Department of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and also editor of "Political Affairs". Both cars proceeded to the home of DON WEST, located on New Hermance Road, Oglethorpe University. WEST, CHASE, WEISS, WILLIAMS and HARKS entered WEST'S home.

ROBERT HARKS, MAX WEISS and JAMES WILLIAMS remained at WEST'S home until 11:15 P.M. on February 4, 1947.

Atlanta, 100-559

On February 6, 1947, Special Agents CLEMENT L. MCGOWAN, JR., PATRICK M. RICE and the writer, along with DON WEST, WEST WEISS and an unidentified man and woman leave the Old Walnut Street Baptist Church (colored), located at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Young Street, Atlanta, Georgia, which is in a colored section. They departed from this address in WEST'S 1942 Nash Sedan, bearing 1946 Georgia license LX 46177. It was noted that a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was in progress at the church at this time.

On Feb. 7, 1947, Special Agents J. TRUETT BROOKSHER and the writer observed CHASE, MAX WEISS and DON WEST together at the Federal Annex at the United States Post Office, Atlanta, Georgia, at 1:40 P.M. CHASE, WEST and WEISS proceeded, in CHASE'S automobile, to the Atlanta Municipal Airport, where they were observed in close conversation for approximately 35 minutes. CHASE AND WEST left WEISS at the Municipal Airport and proceeded to the Service Liquor Store, located at 201 Mitchell Street, Atlanta, Georgia. It is noted that this liquor store is operated by S. I. SCHLESBAUM and BURT RUBIN.

On February 14, 1947, NAT ROSS, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A., and WEST were observed together, and ROSS proceeded to the home of DON WEST, where it is believed he spent the night.

On February 15, 1947 CHASE and ROSS were observed together in the lobby of the Atlantan Hotel, at which time ROSS telephonically contacted an individual named BURT, and in the course of the conversation asked about SYLVIA and the kids. It is believed that this individual is Burt RUBIN, mentioned above. ROSS was also overheard to state that he was leaving in half an hour to drive to North Georgia, and shortly thereafter DON WEST appeared at the Atlantan Hotel. Shortly after this WEST and ROSS left together. It is noted that NAT ROSS married DON WEST'S sister.

On March 7, 1947 HOMER CHASE met NATHAN ROSS and MARY BOGGS SOUTHARD at the Atlanta Bus Station, and after making several stops, proceeded to the home of DON WEST. ROSS, SOUTHARD and CHASE arrived at WEST'S home about 11:50 P.M., and were still there at 3:00 A.M. March 8, 1947, at which time surveillance was discontinued. Agents conducting the surveillance were JOHN MURDITH, LOUIS WOJWODE, PATRICK M. RICE and the writer.

On February 17, 1947 Special Agent CLEMENT M. MCGOWAN, JR. and the writer observed HOMER CHASE taking a number of issues of "Clods of Southern Earth" to the home of ANN and NATHAN KATZ, who are active in Communist activities in Atlanta.

Atlanta, 100-557

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Confidential informant [redacted] sponsored by the Southern Negro Youth Conference, was held February 28, at 8:00 P.M., at the Butler Street Y.M.C.A., with fifteen members present. It was suggested that this conference deal with the Georgia Governors' controversy and the White Primary Bill. On the following morning, Saturday, the conference was attended by twelve white delegates, including representatives from Tech, Morey, Morey High and Glenhope. The main figure on the program was DON WEST, who explained that when the Democracy is taken from the people then it is time to fight. He said, "You are not facing a Yankee, you are looking at a Georgia Cracker whose family has never owned a slave. I am from a poor family from the mountains, and I am in favor of a decent South, yes, a South where all men are equal. I am fighting for the mass of the people, and I will not stop until all have justice." DON WEST then read a speech which he had made over radio station WATL on February 5, 1947, entitled "Georgia's Crisis".

This speech has been reprinted in pamphlet form, and was distributed at the meeting. A copy of the pamphlet was made available to confidential informant [redacted] who furnished same to this office. It is noted that this speech attacked HERMAN TALMADGE and the ROY HARRIS machine, and the Georgia White Primary. It characterizes the Georgia White Primary as being fascist in nature and resembling the Hitler pattern, and calling for the defeat of all forms of the White Primary Bill. This speech further relates that the real enemies of the Negro people, as well as the white, are not the "wool hat boys", but the "silk hat boys", and claims that the entire economic rights of the South are being strangled by Wall Street corporation control, the "silk hat boys". On the last page of this pamphlet, comprising four pages, it is stipulated that same may be ordered from the Peoples Institute of Applied Religion, P. O. Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia; National Office 4103 1/2 Third Avenue South, Birmingham, Alabama

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It is noted that HOMER CHASE, while under surveillance, has been observed securing printed matter from the Superior Printing Company, 123 Luckie Street. It is believed that these were copies of the pamphlet "Georgia's Crisis", inasmuch as it was ascertained from a reliable confidential informant, having access to the residence of HOMER CHASE, that he has a quantity of these pamphlets in his possession.

A confidential informant, T-2, advised that he had observed HOMER CHASE addressing a quantity of envelopes in which he was enclosing a copy of the pamphlet "Georgia's Crisis".

For the information of the Bureau a copy of this pamphlet is being enclosed herewith.

Enclosure to [redacted] copy of [redacted] [redacted]
"Georgia's Crisis"

Best Copy

Atlanta, 100-559

URGENT OPERATIVE

ATLANTA FIELD DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia

Will ascertain the identity of the subscriber of Post Office Box 1178.

At Oglethorpe University

will follow the activities of the subject.

Atlanta, 100-559

The following are identities of confidential informants mentioned in report of Special Agent (Name Redacted), dated March 12, 1947:

T-1

[Redacted]
[Redacted] who is carried as an informant at his request.

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T-2

[Redacted]
[Redacted] who is carried as a confidential informant at her request.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA

NY FILE NO. 100-75680-21

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 3/1/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/4-2/28/48	REPORT MADE BY J. WILEY KENNEDY
TITLE ROBERT LEE WOOD, was		CHARACTER OF CASE FEDERAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject attended Teachers College, Columbia University, 1939, from September, 1945, to January, 1948, pursuing courses in Guided Professional Development and university course on rural life. Stated he would return to New York on completion of studies. While in NY contacted Edna Mitchell and other known Communists.

- ENO -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent Lester G. Payne, Atlanta, 1/16/48.
Report of Special Agent George F. Willard, Atlanta, 7/20/48.

DETAILS: The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent Donald F. Shannon, who contacted Teachers College at Columbia University and reviewed subject's file:

According to this file, subject entered this school in September, 1945, and advised that he resided at 427 Furman Hall on the campus of Columbia University. He is registered for the winter season from September, 1945 to January 31, 1948. He is pursuing the following courses: Guided Professional Development and a university seminar on rural life. In his application WCCF stated he was born June 6, 1908, at Canton, Georgia, and that his permanent residence is Lula, Georgia.

He listed as references a Dr. ALVA H. TAYLOR, 101 Bowling Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee, and a MR. H. E. JOHNS.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	<i>J. W. Kennedy</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
INDEXED	<i>[initials]</i>	<i>100-75680-21</i>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT	5 - Bureau	<i>557</i>
SERIALIZED	<i>[initials]</i>	<i>APR 15 1948</i>

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100-75680-21

NY 100-82223

Postmaster, Lula, Georgia. He stated he attended the following schools: Lincoln University, Lincoln, Missouri, 1929 to 1932, where he received an A.S. Degree; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, from 1932 to 1933, receiving a Bachelor of Science; Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, 1937 to 1938, receiving a Masters Degree; University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 1938 to 1941, where he received special courses; Summer School at the University of Chicago in 1941; and the International Peoples College, Elgin, Kansas, 1942 to 1943, pursuing special courses.

He listed the following employment: 1918 Trustee of a church at Deaneville, Georgia; 1932 to 1933, Superintendent of Lula School, Lula, Georgia.

The following information was obtained from the files of the New York Field Division:

On January 3, 1946, Confidential Informant T-1 advised that one ~~OWEN BILFRAGE~~, a Communist known to this office, was to meet the subject at 55 West 42 Street, New York, on January 4, 1946, at 2 p.m. On January 4, 1946, a physical surveillance conducted on OWEN BILFRAGE by Special Agents Francis J. Gallant, Walter H. Gibson, and Edward E. Foley reflected that the subject, accompanied by BILFRAGE, was observed to enter Room 702, 55 West 42 Street, New York. The door of the said is marked Distributors Guide and is known to be the office occupied by EARL BROWDER, former head of the Communist Party. Later the subject and BILFRAGE, accompanied by EARL BROWDER, were observed leaving this building.

On January 6, 1946, Confidential Informant T-2 advised that the subject contacted one BETTY HALL, secretary to DR. WINSTON, a Communist known to this office. A tentative appointment was made for the subject at 9:30 a.m. January 15, 1946. At that time subject stated he was leaving New York City in the latter part of January, 1946.

On January 7, 1946, Confidential Informant T-1 advised that MARY BILFRAGE, wife of OWEN BILFRAGE, discussed the impending appearance of the subject before group meetings. At that time MARY stated subject was on sabbatical leave from the school at Lula, Georgia, where he was Superintendent of Schools. She also stated that the subject was of original Georgia background and intended returning to Georgia to run for Congress against Congressman WOODS of the reorganized Dies Committee.

On January 21, 1946, Confidential Informant T-2 advised that while subject was at the office of Dr. A. D. WINSTON, one WATSON, whose identity is unknown, advised that she would meet him for lunch that day.

NY 100-32189

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Confidential Informant's report of Special Agent J. Wesley Terrence dated March 2, 1950, as above, are identified as follows:

- T-1 NY 353, whose identity is known to the Bureau
- T-2 NY 750, whose identity is known to the Bureau

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO.

100-20396

ODD

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/12/47	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/5-9; 6/2, 3/47	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR.
TITLE <u>Changed:</u> DONALD LEE WEST, was Don Lee West, Don West, Reverend Donald L. West, Jim Webb.		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY

1947 CP USA card No. 96336 issued to JIM WEBB contains descriptive data that indicates subject and WEBB may be identical. Subject staunch supporter of CP election in Kentucky in 1936. Reported one of CP leaders in Kentucky in 1938. Subject active in Highlander Folk School in Tennessee in 1940. Subject presently in contact with HOMER BATES CHASE, CP Organizer for Georgia, and Dr. BODDIE, Chairman of Auburn Avenue Colored Branch, CP, Atlanta, Georgia. Subject professor at Oglethorpe University and resident of Oglethorpe, Georgia. Background information set forth.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau file 100-20396.
Report of Special Agent GEORGE P. DILLARD, dated, at Atlanta, 3/12/47.

DETAILS:

The title of this case is being marked changed to indicate the additional alias of subject as Jim Webb.

RESIDENT ADDRESS AND OCCUPATION

Subject is presently a professor of sacred literature and English writing at Oglethorpe University, Oglethorpe, Georgia, and resides on New Hermans Road, Oglethorpe, Georgia.

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
SEP 30 1965	
FBI - BALTIMORE	

100-10481-23

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Atlanta, 100-559

CITIZENSHIP STATUS

Subject was born at Cartecay, Georgia, June 6, 1908, the son of OLIVER WEST and LILLY HULKEY. WEST's parents were natives of Gilmer County, Georgia. Subject's grandfather, KIM HULKEY, was also a native of Gilmer County, Georgia.

EVIDENCE OF MEMBERSHIP IN COMMUNIST PARTY

MR. JOHN HUDSON
Attorney at Law
Atlanta, Georgia

HUDSON advised that he had taken an active part in the suppression of subversive activities in Atlanta in 1934 in an effort to stop communist organizations. He stated that WEST's activities in Atlanta during this time consisted of holding meetings in the houses of Negroes and poor white laborers and the distribution of communist literature. HUDSON stated that in the Daily Worker dated January 11, 1934, there was an article written about DON WEST in which it was stated that WEST had just written a small book of poems called, "Between the Plow and Hands", and that WEST was in New York City following his escape from Atlanta, Georgia, to evade the city's hunt against communists. HUDSON stated the above article also stated WEST was working on the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners. HUDSON stated that when he was Fulton County Solicitor he conducted a raid on the apartment of DON WEST and a number of pieces of communist literature were found in the apartment, among them being an outline for the Communist Party unit discussion.

Paragraph 9 of the above outline stated, "What is the structure of the Communist Party?

"The basic organization is the shop, plantation, or street unit. All the units in a said territory - say a city or half a city - are under the leadership of a section. A number of sections in a given territory (a state or several states) are under the leadership of a district. All the districts are under the leadership of the party center in New York. There is a Communist Party in every country, all of them belonging to and led by the Communist International, with headquarters in Moscow."

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LOUISVILLE CITY DIRECTORY

The Louisville City Directory, Louisville, Kentucky, in 1937 revealed that DON WEST and his wife, MABLE WEST, were listed as being residents of 1730 Magazine Street, Louisville, Kentucky. In instant book WEST is listed as a state organizer for an organization known as the "Workers Alliance of America".

[REDACTED]

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In 1942 [REDACTED] turned over to the Atlanta office two newspaper clippings which were taken from the Southern News Almanac, which was published in 1941 and 1942 in Birmingham, Alabama. A clipping dated June 6, 1941, under the heading, "Awakening Church", by Reverend DONALD L. WEST, disclosed that the subject, as of that date, was against war, stating it was a war of the capitalists and imperialistic nations. The clipping dated July 4, 1941, from the Pike County Journal, under the heading "Defend Democratic Ideals", by Reverend DONALD L. WEST, stated the American people should have no sympathy for Hitler and that America must never submit to Hitler domination, and, in substance, WEST advocated all-out aid for the Allies.

R. C. WIGLEY
Kennesaw, Georgia

WIGLEY on interview in 1942 stated that DONALD WEST was a communist and had influenced the entire WEST family to become communists, that subject's sister, ELSIE WEST ROSS, was in Russia, and that another sister, DELLA WEST ROSS, was working for a communist newspaper in Birmingham, Alabama.

ROBERT LEE HOWELL
Farmer
Kennesaw, Georgia

HOWELL advised in 1942 that the J. L. WEST family moved to Kennesaw approximately seventeen years previously from Ellijay, Georgia, and that WEST was one of the leaders of the communists in the United States and worked all over the United States with the Communist Party. He stated the subject attended school at one time in Europe and stated the subject had influenced every member of his family to join the Communist Party.

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He stated that DELLA WEST ROSS was the wife of MIKE ROSS, who is active in the Communist Party in North Carolina and that CLEITHE BELL WEST was married to BART HUNTER LOGAN, leader of the Communist Party in North Carolina, that ELSIE WEST ROSS was the wife of NAT ROSS, and that she had gone to Russia and Denmark, and that NAT ROSS was an active member of the Communist Party in Birmingham, Alabama. HOWELL stated that he had followed the activities of WEST for a number of years and that WEST was at one time an agitator at the Mount Berry School located in Rome, Georgia. HOWELL made available a book entitled, "Songs for Southern Workers", prepared by WEST when he was state organizer for the Kentucky Workers Alliance in 1937.

Dr. GREEN of Mount Berry School, Rome, Georgia, advised that WEST left school in 1926, after he had attempted to persuade the pupils to strike because the school was supported by capitalistic groups and because the school demanded a small tuition from the students.

Mr. A. C. McGAHEE
Meansville, Georgia

McGAHEE was interviewed in 1942 and advised he was treasurer of the Meansville Congregational Church and that he had talked to WEST when he was pastor of the church on numerous occasions. McGAHEE stated that the subject on one occasion exhibited a moving picture in the Congregational Church which was against imperialistic England and that subject edited a small newspaper called, "The Country Parson", which was very radical in nature. McGAHEE stated that during 1940 and 1941 the subject was always talking and advocating peace and that America stay out of the war but that after Germany declared war on Russia the subject became an active advocate of immediate participation in the war, stating it was no longer an imperialistic war and that America should assist the Allies in every way.

A. J. McCORD
Farmer
Leansville, Georgia

McCORD stated that during 1940 and 1941 the subject was very much against war and any possibility of America's sending any supplies to England. The subject severely criticized the Roosevelt administration, stating it was leading America into war. McCORD stated the subject

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maintained this position until 1941 and since that time had been in favor of America's entering the war and sending all-out aid to its Allies.

JOEL MATTHEWS

Farmer

Meansville, Georgia

MATTHEWS gave a signed statement on January 8, 1942, in which he stated that in January 1941 he had assisted WEST in editing "The Country Parson" and that at this time the paper was very pro-labor in attitude and anti-war. WEST at that time was very much opposed to America's aiding the Allies in any way and strongly urged that the United States stay out of the war. MATTHEWS further stated that WEST printed the paper in a back room of his home in Meansville, Georgia, and told him he wanted to learn to operate the printing press so that he would be able to operate the press when the Communist Party went underground. He told MATTHEWS of his trip in Europe and how he was particularly impressed with the underground work of the Communist Party in Germany.

MATTHEWS stated that subject also received a great deal of literature from the Peace Mobilization Headquarters in New York City and had received several copies of "Soviet Power" by the Dean of Canterbury. MATTHEWS stated that WEST induced him to attend a meeting of the American Peace Mobilization in New York City about April 6 or 7, 1941. He stated he had also attended the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee, at the instigation of DONALD WEST. MATTHEWS stated that WEST told him he was one of the original founders of the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee. MATTHEWS also stated that WEST told him that he had helped investigate the ANGELO HERNDON, colored, case for the Communist Party in 1934 in Atlanta, Georgia, and had later helped HERNDON write a book on HERNDON's life. MATTHEWS stated that on several occasions he had come to Atlanta with the subject and the subject had gone up to HARDY SCOTT's apartment, SCOTT being Secretary of the Communist Party for Georgia at that time.

MATTHEWS stated that it was not until sometime in May 1941 that subject felt MATTHEWS had been sufficiently conditioned in the Communist Party lines to introduce him to SCOTT. He stated that WEST had also introduced him to NATHAN KATZ, a Communist Party member. MATTHEWS stated that on the night Germany marched into Russia he was with WEST. Prior to that

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date WEST had been extremely against the United States going into war and of giving any aid to England but that that night, according to MATTHEWS, WEST immediately stated America would have to give all possible aid to Russia and England in order to help them defeat Germany. MATTHEWS further stated that WEST would always be right in line with the Communist Party and would always follow it.

MATTHEWS further stated that WEST posed as a preacher but was a profound atheist and that WEST and another communist, named CLAUDE WILLIAMS, believed that they could work through the church and convert the South to communism. He stated that WEST had founded a religion called "Institute of Applied Religion" at Little Rock, Arkansas.

MATTHEWS advised that ALVA K. TAYLOR, Vanderbilt University, was the individual responsible for converting WEST to communism. He stated subject also attended Berea College, Berea, Kentucky, where he met his wife, MABLE ADAMS WEST, who was also a Communist, and that they had two small children, named [REDACTED]

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MATTHEWS also stated that subject bragged about organizing a group of volunteers in Kentucky for the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, which went to Spain and fought for the Loyalist Government, and claimed that he had persuaded thirty or more individuals to join the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and had raised several hundred dollars for it.

MATTHEWS stated that WEST went to Birmingham, Alabama, in July 1941 with BART HUNTER LOGAN, Secretary of the Communist Party of North Carolina and brother-in-law of the subject; MIKE ROSS, brother-in-law of the subject, active in the Communist Party in North Carolina; and HARDY SCOTT, Secretary of the Communist Party in Georgia, to see ROBERT F. HALL, Secretary of the Communist Party for District No. 17.

MATTHEWS stated that WEST spoke at the "Smash Hitler Committee" picnic in Atlanta, Georgia, in September 1941.

MATTHEWS made available several copies of "The Country Parson" dated in 1941 and a small pamphlet entitled, "A Christian Fellowship Message", printed by WEST.

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REVEREND R. C. KILSEY
Pastor, Baptist Church
Cassville, Georgia

KILSEY stated that several years prior to 1942 subject had come into the community and endeavored to organize the farmers into a union, and that at this time WEST distributed communist literature and the Daily Worker to the farmers of the community.

"STUDENT REVIEW"
February 1934 Issue

There was found in the files of the Fulton County Solicitor's Office a February 1934 issue of the Student Review, which carried an article concerning the Southern Folk School library operated by DON WEST, subject, CLYDE JOHNSON, and WILLIE SUTTON.

In the Daily Worker in 1934 there was a column written by MICHAEL GOLD, entitled, "Change the World". In this article GOLD states that WEST is a young, southern, mountaineer boy who became revolutionary and studied Marx and Lenin for the purpose of organizing the Negro and white farmers in Georgia. GOLD further stated that WEST was born in Gilmer County, Georgia, and was educated at the Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia; at the Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee; Vanderbilt University, and that he had studied in Denmark and Europe.

MRS. WINNIE MEEKS
Monteagle, Tennessee

Mrs. MEEKS advised that she had heard DON WEST's parody sung at the Highlander Folk School. This parody is entitled, "My Country 'Tis of Thee", the first line of which begins: "My country, 'tis of thee, land of mass misery..."



Informant stated that he had met subject at the Highlander Folk School and that he knew the subject as a communist, that this was in 1931 or 1932.

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NYT-352

Informant stated that the subject, to his knowledge, had made arrangements to meet CEDRIC BELFRAGE, a known communist, in New York on January 4, 1946, at 2 p.m., at 55 West Forty-second Street, New York City.

FRANCIS J. GALLANT
WALTER H. NELSON
EDWARD W. DOOLEY
Special Agents, FBI
New York City
January 1946

Surveillance conducted by the above agents reflected that the subject accompanied BELFRAGE to Room 702, 55 West Forty-second Street, that the door of instant office was marked "Distributors Guide" and was known to be the office occupied by EARL BROWDER, former head of the Communist Party, but that later the subject and BELFRAGE, accompanied by BROWDER, were observed leaving the building.

NYT-352

Informant stated that MOLLY BELFRAGE on January 7, 1946, had discussed the impending appearance of subject before group meetings, at which time she stated to the informant the subject was on sabbatical leave from the school at Lula, Georgia.

NYT-350

Informant advised that the subject contacted BETTY HART, Secretary to Dr. WEINSTEIN, on January 6, 1946, and visited at the office of Dr. A. B. WEINSTEIN.

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Informant advised that subject called upon her on December 29, 1943, and told her he had seen ROBERT F. HALL, Secretary of the Communist Party, District 17, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and that HALL had instructed him to contact informant and furnish her information concerning a spy in the Communist Party in Georgia.

Informant advised that subject stated he was married and had two children and that his wife really was a communist. He stated he had a sister

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who had just returned from the Soviet Union and was in New York City writing a book. Informant stated subject advised that he was principal of the school at Lula, Georgia, and exerted a great deal of influence in that community and that he might be successful in organizing an active branch of the Communist Party there.

J. TRUETT BROOKSHER
PATRICK M. RICE
CLEMENT L. MCGOWAN, JR.
Special Agents, FBI
Atlanta, Georgia

On February 4, 1947, at 8:25 p.m., the subject was observed leaving the Butler Street Y. M. C. A. (colored) with HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer for the Communist Party, District No. 31, State of Georgia, that they were immediately followed by ROBERT E. HAWKS and JAMES E. WILLIAMS, representatives of the National Maritime Union from Savannah, Georgia, and reported communists, that they proceeded from there to the Frances Hotel, 43 Peachtree Street, where subject and CHASE were joined by MAX WEISS, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party of the U. S. A. and Secretary of the Education Agitation and Publicity Department of the Communist Party, USA, also editor of "Political Affairs". Both cars proceeded to the home of the subject. MAX WEISS and WILLIAMS remained at WEST's home until 11:15 p.m. and CHASE remained there until 3:30 p.m., February 5, 1947.

On February 6, 1947, the above agents observed subject, MAX WEISS, and an unidentified man and woman leave the Old Wheat Street Baptist Church (colored) at Atlanta, Georgia. It is to be noted that at this time there was a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in progress at the church.

On February 7, 1947, Special Agent BROOKSHER observed CHASE, WEISS, and the subject together in the Federal Annex of the U. S. Post Office, that they proceeded to the Municipal Airport and WEISS was left at the Municipal Airport.

On February 14, 1947, NAT ROSS (brother-in-law of subject), member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, USA, was observed with subject and proceeded to his home where he remained for the night.

On March 7, 1947, CHASE, NATHAN ROSS and MARY BOGGS SOUTHWARD, writer for the Daily Worker and member of the Communist Party in Birmingham,

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Alabama, proceeded to subject's home at 11:50 p.m. and remained there for the night.

On February 17, 1947, Special Agent McGOWAN observed HOMER CHASE taking a number of copies of "Clods of Southern Earth", a book written by the subject, to the home of ALM and NATHAN KATZ, active members of the Communist Party, Atlanta, Georgia.

Confidential Informant [] advised that the subject was the main speaker at a conference called "Georgia's Crisis", sponsored by the Southern Negro Youth Congress and held February 28, 1947, at the Butler Street Y. M. C. A. (colored), at which conference there were fifteen members present. He stated that the subject said at this meeting: "When democracy is taken from the people, it is time to fight. You are not facing a Yankee; you are looking at a Georgia Cracker whose family has never owned a slave. I am from a poor family from the mountains, and I am in favor of a decent South, Yes, a South where all men are equal. I am fighting for the mass of the people, and I will not stop until all have justice." Subject then read a speech which he had delivered over radio station WATL on February 5, 1947, entitled, "Georgia's Crisis".

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T-1 stated that HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer, CP, USA, District No. 31, Atlanta, Georgia, had a 1947 membership card in the Communist Party, USA, No. 96336, in the name of JIM WEBB, Atlanta, Georgia. The descriptive data from instant source revealed that WEBB might be identical with subject. The following description appears on instant party membership card:

Club:	Atlanta at large
Section:	Atlanta
County:	Fulton
State:	Georgia
Sex:	Male
Race:	White
Employment:	Employed
Age:	37
Time in Party:	15 years
Trade or Occupation:	Teacher
Industry:	College
Address:	
Phone:	

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Mass Organization: Southern Conference for
Human Welfare
Membership: Southern Conf. for Human Welfare
National Origin
of Self or
Parents: American

Confidential Informant T-2 advised that on May 1, 1947, the subject had paid to MARGARET FISHER \$4.00 by check. It is noted that this check was endorsed "MARGARET FISHER, Committee of Georgia".

NATIONAL REPUBLICAN LETTERGRAM

Report No. 46

Instant lettergram stated that subject was state organizer of the Communist Party in Kentucky in 1936 and was a staunch supporter of the Communist Party ticket during 1936.

Information received from an unknown source reflected that subject was one of the Communist Party leaders in Kentucky in 1938 and that he had attended the Tenth National Convention of the Communist Party in New York City in 1938.

HENRY S. McGUIRE
804 Citizens Bank Building
Lexington, Kentucky

McGUIRE advised September 13, 1937, that subject had previously been a Communist Party member in Lexington, Kentucky.

GEORGE G. WARD
642 Central Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

WARD advised that in 1941 the subject had spent an evening at his home and had left two suitcases. Upon opening the suitcases he had found they were full of Communist literature. WARD stated that subject had been a pacifist before the German invasion of Russia but that shortly thereafter WEST had changed and advocated United States intervention into the war, that he had questioned WEST concerning this, and WEST had stated

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that prior to Russia's entry into the war it had been an "imperialistic war" but that since Hitler had attacked Russia it was now a "workers' war".

EVIDENCE OF OTHER COMMUNITY PARTY CONNECTIONS

The Daily Worker dated March 20, 1947, had an article entitled, "DON WEST Benefit Performance Friday". This article stated that the People's Culture Union of America was holding a benefit preview performance to raise money to help DON WEST, author of "Clods of Southern Earth", who was being sued for \$10,000 in a trumped-up libel charge by reactionary forces in the South.

The Daily Worker of March 27, 1947, carried an article entitled, "Writers Party to Aid DON WEST", which stated, in substance, that the Writing Out Loud literary and dance affair sponsored by the Contemporary Writers would be key noted by the opening gun to defend DON WEST, Southern poet, whose anti-Fascist activities in Georgia had brought down the wrath of klansmen and other reactionaries.

The Daily Worker dated May 18, 1947, revealed an article entitled, "Committee Organized to Aid Fighting South", which stated, in substance, that this committee was to be a permanent body and was engaged to raise \$10,000 by June 1 to help the 10,000 striking tobacco workers of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; to aid the Southern Negro Youth Congress in its battle against the white primary and for the right of citizenship for the Negro people; to assist the defense of DON WEST, Georgia poet, against a trumped-up libel suit, as well as to provide funds for other civil cases. BENJAMIN J. DAVIS and MILLARD LANPPELL led this organization and funds were to be sent to PAUL M. CAIN, 3 Leroy Street, New York 14, New York, with checks made payable to Dr. JAMES J. JONES.

Confidential Informant T-3 advised that DIANA and THOMAS MASON had, during the month of April, spent a weekend with the subject. THOMAS and DIANA MASON are active members of the Communist Party in Atlanta, Georgia, having recently transferred from Savannah, Georgia.

LITERARY WORKS AND RECORDINGS OF SUBJECT

The following is a list of literary works and publications made by the subject and is set forth in chronological order pursuant to date, with certain excerpts quoted therefrom to show subject's party line:

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1. "Songs for Southern Workers", prepared by DON WEST, State Organizer, Kentucky Workers Alliance, May 1937. The following is quoted from instant book:

"My country 'tis of thee
Land of mass misery,
Of this I sing.
Land where the workers toil
And bosses reap their spoil
Where children starve and freeze
From fall 'til spring.

"My native country thee,
Our fathers fought to free
You from a king.
And in their steps we tread,
Fighting for meat and bread,
Workers, lift up your head--
Let freedom ring!

"The union now, you see--
Our hope for liberty,
Of it we sing!
Let Southern voices sound
With union all around
The mountain side rebound
With songs we sing!"

2. "Toil and Hunger", poems by DON WEST. This book was published in 1940. On the fly leaf of instant book is noted, "His poems are clods of southern earth flung in the face of reaction", from the People's World. One of these poems is entitled, "Listen, I Am an Agitator". The first line of this poem begins: "Listen...! I am an agitator -- They call me 'Red', the color of blood and -- 'Bolshevik' !"
3. "The Span", issue of April and May 1941, one of whose editors was the subject. Under an article entitled "The Awakening Church", by the Reverend DONALD L. WEST, subject, in substance, stated that the United States of America should keep out of war, that "Just like in 1917 there are two rival groups fighting for empire, colonies, and profits".

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4. A newspaper entitled "The Country Parson", edited by the subject. Copies for January, February, March, and April of 1941 reveal that the subject was definitely against the United States entering into World War II.
5. A pamphlet entitled "A Christian Fellowship Message", by Reverend DONALD L. WEST, the subject, which JOEL MATHEWS advised was printed in the first of 1941, with subheadings, "We Don't Want War", "Do We Want to Repeat 1917?", a portion of which stated, "In the name of Christ, and in the interest of the great common people of our land, may we all keep calm and cool in the face of the mighty barrage of propaganda. In the name of Christ, we don't want war!"
6. A pamphlet entitled, "Blessed Are the Peacemakers" (an urgent appeal to the peace lovers of the South), by Reverend DONALD L. WEST, the subject, date of printing unknown. This particular pamphlet is against the war, one of the subheadings of which reads, "Another Imperialistic War for Plunder".
7. Articles in the Southern News Almanac written by the subject under the title, "The Awakening Church".

The first article appearing on February 21, 1941, under above title, in substance, preaches that the United States should keep out of war.

Article dated April 3, 1941, in substance, advises big business should not be allowed to lead us into war.

Article under news date line of Thursday, April 14, 1941, in substance, stated we should not enter World War II.

Article under news date line of Thursday, June 26, 1941, urges that people should write letters and wires into Washington against convoys.

Article dated Thursday, July 17, 1941, is quoted, in part, as follows:

"Get out your pencil and pen and write to your Congressman and President in Washington. Tell them what the American

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people want - all aid to the fight against Fascism, against Hitler and Hitlerism, all aid to the struggling Chinese Republic but a complete embargo against Fascist Japan."

8. An editorial, "Defend Democratic Ideals", written by DONALD L. WEST, in the Pike County Journal, dated July 4, 1941, which stated, in part, "Make no mistake - America must never submit to Hitler domination", and, in substance, is a change of subject's former policy of pacifism and anti-war to anti-fascism.
9. A pamphlet entitled, "Educate for Victory", excerpts from speech of March 19, 1943, by D. L. WEST, Superintendent, Lula, Georgia, Schools. This pamphlet contains in it an article entitled "1943 Demands a Real Second Front in Europe".
10. The book entitled, "The Lula Scrapper", put out by the senior class of Lula High School in 1942 and 1943, with an opening article by the subject, a portion of which reads as follows: "The most challenging frontiers are yet to be explored--the frontiers of human relations and betterment. . Keep an open, questioning mind. Be willing to learn new ways and ideas of life. Keep an undying love for the common folk down in your heart--the kind of folk that made America a great, warm-hearted land--and you can't go wrong!...Some of our Senior Class will soon be far away in the armed forces. They, with millions of others will be giving their all to rid the earth of fascist slavery."

It is to be noted in instant book that the class motto was "Lula Scrappers--scrapping to wipe all traces of fascism from the earth."
11. A pamphlet entitled, "Georgia's Crisis", from a radio speech given February 5, 1947. Instant pamphlet is a fight against the White Primary Bill and HERMAN TALMADGE, which ends as follows:

"We people of Georgia don't want to work against the Constitution and Bill of Rights of the U. S. A. We don't want to let our state become the proving ground for American fascism! Then we must play our role as loyal Georgians and true Americans by immediately stamping out this nazi effort to conquer our state!"
12. Book of poems entitled "Clods of Southern Earth".

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Copies of publications noted above are being retained in the Atlanta file.

T-4 advised that the following individuals were in communication with subject through Post Office Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia:

Miss LUCILLE ROBINSON INDEXED
Post Office Box 502
Canton, Georgia

Technographic Publication INDEXED
509 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

BARRY
315 West Seventy-fourth Street
New York, New York

J. KRENWINKLE
7635 North Rogers Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

BACKGROUND

The subject was born at Cartecay, Georgia, June 6, 1908, the son of OLIVER WEST and LILLY HULKEY. He first attended school at the Berry Schools in Rome, Georgia. He also attended Lincoln Memorial University, Hannegate, Tennessee, 1925 to 1929, receiving an A. B. degree; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, 1929 to 1932, receiving a degree of Bachelor of Divinity; Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, 1937 to 1944, receiving a Master's Degree; University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, 1944 to 1944, taking special courses; summer school at the University of Chicago in 1945; the International Peoples College, Elsinore, Denmark, 1933 to 1934, pursuing special courses; and Teacher's College, Columbia University, September 1945 to January 1946, pursuing courses in Guided Professional Development and a university seminar on rural life.

Subject was married December 14, 1928, to MABLE ADAIS of Middlesboro, Kentucky, and had two children by his marriage, namely, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The subject was superintendent of schools at Lula, Georgia, 1942 and 1943 and was formerly a

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minister of the Gospel in various churches located throughout Georgia for several years. Subject at the present time is teaching at Oglethorpe University and AT-1324 advised that the subject has been conducting an open forum once a week, which a number of teachers and students attend, and the subject arranges for various speakers from the local unions and Negro schools to address the forum on public affairs of current interest to the South. AT-1324 also advised that the subject has been in constant touch with HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party Organizer for the State of Georgia, Dr. ELWOOD GRANT BODDIE, Chairman of the Auburn Avenue Branch of the Communist Party in Atlanta, Georgia, and WILLIAM STAFFORD, Organizer for the United Public Workers Alliance, CIO, who has also been in contact with CHASE. STAFFORD has given a speech before this open forum on the need for unionization of public works and it has been reported that WILLIAM MILTON BROOKS, a Negro Communist, gave a speech before instant group.

AT-1324 stated that the subject intends to run and operate a summer camp in Northern Georgia for children of union laborers, that he was present when WEST talked to BILL STAFFORD, CIO organizer for the United Public and Allied Workers, and that WEST requested the address of JOHN K. FINDLY, Unitarian Work Camp, 9 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts, and that WEST was going to ask FINDLY for assistance in establishing this camp and seek ideas on the operation of same.

WEST has the following relatives:

Mother:

Mrs. LILLIE E. AKINS,
Cartersville, Georgia

Brothers:

[redacted]
Marietta, Georgia, [redacted]

Sisters:

[redacted]
High Point, North Carolina
(married to [redacted]
former District Organizer for
the Communist Party in N. C.)

[redacted] better known
as [redacted]
wife of [redacted] alias
[redacted] Winston-Salem, N. C.,
[redacted] for the CIO and former
Communist Party functionary

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Sister:

Mrs. ELSIE ROSS, aka Janet West Ross, Janet Weaver, Janet Cohan, Johnnie West Ross, wife of NATHAN ROSS, member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, USA, in charge of southern organized activities for the Communist Party.

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UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE BOSTON DIVISION

At Boston, Massachusetts:

Will endeavor to ascertain whether or not JOHN K. FINDLY, Unitarian Work Camp, 9 Park Street, Boston, Massachusetts, is actively connected with the Communist Party, USA. Will supply any information you may be able to obtain concerning subject WEST's affiliation or connections.

THE CHICAGO DIVISION

At Chicago, Illinois:

Will endeavor to ascertain whether or not J. KERWINKLE, 7635 North Rogers Avenue, is a functionary or connected with the Communist Party, USA. Will endeavor to ascertain his connection or affiliation with subject WEST.

THE NEW YORK DIVISION

At New York City:

Will advise the Atlanta Division of the identity of BARRY, 315 West Seventy-fourth Street, New York City, if identity can be ascertained, and determine whether or not he or the Technographic Publication, 509 Madison Avenue, New York City, is affiliated or connected with the Communist Party, USA. Will endeavor to ascertain the affiliation of instant individuals, if possible, with subject.

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

At Washington, D. C.:

Will check with the State Department and obtain any information in their files concerning instant subject. It is noted that subject allegedly attended the International Peoples College, Elsinore, Denmark, from 1933 to 1934, pursuing special courses.

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Will determine, if possible, from their files whether or not subject has been fingerprinted so a check can be made through the Identification Division.

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia:

Will follow and report activity of subject through sources of information and confidential informants.

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SOURCE OF INFORMATION


T-1: A highly confidential source which made available the effects of HOMER BATES CHASE to Special Agents CLEMENT L. McGOWAN, Jr., and GEORGE P. DILLARD.

T-2:



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T-3:

 Atlanta, Georgia, at whose home DIANA and THOMAS REASON are presently living.

T-4: Mail cover placed on subject DON WEST at the Buckhead Branch of the United States Post Office.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ORIGINATED AT

FILE No. 100-580

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 11/18/47	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/15/47 - 10/1/47	REPORT MADE BY DONALD B. CLEGG :hs
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject designated top functionary Atlanta Division 9/15/47. Is teaching at Oglethorpe University and giving adult classes at O'Keefe High School, Atlanta. ELTHAN ROSS, Southern Organizer for CP and brother-in-law of subject, was in Atlanta 10/10-15/47. Spent night of 10/13 at home of subject. Latter has been in frequent contact with HOMER B. CHASE, CP Organizer for Georgia, PETER PRICE, Organizer for Southern Negro Youth Congress, and WILLIAM STAFFORD, Head of UPWA-CIO, Atlanta. Has also been active in Southern Conference for Human Welfare, especially in arranging for speaking engagements in Atlanta on 11/20/47 by former Vice President HENRY A. WALLACE.

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REFERENCE: Bureau File No. 100-20396.
Report of SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR., Atlanta, 6/12/47.

DETAILS: By letter dated September 15, 1947 the Bureau authorized the designation of subject as a top functionary in the Atlanta Division.

ADDRESS AND EMPLOYMENT

DONALD LEE WEST continues to reside at an unnumbered house on New Hermance Road, just off the Oglethorpe University Campus, DeKalb County, Georgia. He is a Professor of Sacred Literature and English Writing at Oglethorpe.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	SEARCHED	INDEXED
			SERIALIZED	FILED
			SEP 30 1966	
			FBI - ATLANTA	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT			SEARCHED	INDEXED
5 - Bureau			SERIALIZED	FILED
1 - Birmingham (Info)		100-15680-25		

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM

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AT 100-589

According to information received from Confidential Informant T-1, subject spent part of July and all of August, 1947 with his family at Skyland Camp, Sautree, White County, Georgia.

On September 21, 1947 an article appeared in the Atlanta Constitution to the effect that the Oglethorpe University Division of Adult Education would offer courses for the fall and winter terms at O'Keefe High School, Bass High School and on the Oglethorpe Campus. It was stated that DON WEST, author of "Clods of Southern Earth", would teach a class in southern folklore at O'Keefe High. Information received from T-1 confirms the fact that subject is conducting classes for adults at O'Keefe High School a few evenings each week.

According to T-1 on 10/2/47 an individual identifying himself as NEIL BAXTER contacted subject. BAXTER appeared to be a member of the class which WEST is teaching at the O'Keefe High School. As far as could be determined by the informant, this class is composed of a number of school teachers and their meetings are held at around five or six o'clock two or three evenings each week. The Atlanta City Directory shows a NEIL BAXTER as a teacher at the Central Night High School in Atlanta. BAXTER told WEST he had received some information to the effect that a Mrs. J. W. WRIGHT, 22 Anniston Avenue, SE, had complained to a member of Atlanta School Board that WEST was teaching Communism in his classes. BAXTER indicated that he had been questioned about the classes by Dr. STANLEY M. HASTINGS, Principal of O'Keefe High School. WEST stated that he did not know who Mrs. WRIGHT was and he knew of no grounds on which anyone could make such an assertion against him. He did recall that about the second time the class met there had been a woman who came up to him and had advised him that although she was not a member of the class she would like to sit in on it that night. He had told her that she would be welcome. BAXTER did not know who Mrs. WRIGHT was. BAXTER indicated that he had attended all of the classes except the first one and that he had heard nothing during the classes which might lead any intelligent person to believe that Communism was being taught.

BAXTER and WEST discussed the fact that there is presently a great deal of hysteria about Communism and that probably some "crackpot" might misinterpret the things that were being taught by WEST and might brand them as Communist teachings. BAXTER pointed out that this Mrs. WRIGHT lives in a section of town where the Columbians had been active and that possibly she might be a plant of the Columbians. BAXTER also stated that the Office of the Atlanta Board of Education had had little information about the fact that the classes were being held. BAXTER

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and WEST agreed that it would be good for WEST to mention the incident to the next class in a sort of joking way and to ask the class if any of them had gotten the impression that Communism was being taught. BAXTER also stated that he would see what he could do to fully inform the school officials and also the officials of the Atlanta Board of Education about the classes in order that the classes would not be discontinued. They both seemed a bit apprehensive that school officials might refuse to allow them to use the class room any more for the classes.

Subsequent information provided by T-1 indicates that the classes are still being held at O'Keefe High School.

PARTY ACTIVITY

Informant T-1 has advised that subject has been in touch with HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party Organizer for District No. 31, and other Party officials and members during the past few months.

According to T-1, on 9/28/47 CHASE was in contact with WEST and told WEST that the convention from which he had just returned was very good. (CHASE had just returned to Atlanta from Macon, Georgia, where he had attended the State CIO Convention.) CHASE said that he would like to meet WEST again later that night when he would have time to tell WEST all about the convention. They made arrangements to meet at about 9:20 PM on the same night.

T-1 stated that CHASE was again in contact with WEST on September 30, 1947, at which time he told WEST that he had received news from WEST'S "relative". It is believed that CHASE was referring to MATHEW ROSS, CP Organizer for the South and a brother-in-law of subject. According to informant, WEST and CHASE then had considerable discussion about the plans which were being made for the appearance of former Vice President HENRY A. WALLACE in Atlanta. WEST told CHASE that a "preacher friend" from Birmingham was coming over to Atlanta on the following day and was going to spend the night at the West home. This "preacher friend" was to be en route to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he was being "pulled in for some special work". WEST stated that he had told his "preacher friend" that it seemed to him that there should be more concentration on work in Georgia and that the organization should be thinking about getting more people in this state.

It was determined on the basis of the information furnished by the writer, through a search made on the subject of the "preacher friend" referred to is CLAUDE WILLIAMS, Head of the People's Institute of Applied Religion in Birmingham.

AT 100-569

In a letter from Birmingham to Atlanta dated April 7, 1947 it was stated that CLAUDE WILLIAMS was the Director of the People's Institute of Applied Religion, a Communist front organization with National offices at 1103 1/2 3d Avenue, South Birmingham. It was also stated that Birmingham informants advised that WILLIAMS travels considerably endeavoring to establish branches of his organization, particularly in southern states. It was further stated that a review of the file maintained on WILLIAMS by Birmingham indicated that WILLIAMS and DONALD L. WEST have been close personal friends since they attended Vanderbilt School of Religion at Nashville, Tennessee during 1927, 1928 and 1929.

Mrs. MARY DAVIS GIBB, a teacher at the Rabun County High School, on June 9, 1947 advised SA THOMAS O. DAVIS, Atlanta, that she had received through the mail on May 29, 1947 a mimeographed letter with the heading "People's Institute of Applied Religion, Post Office Box 1178, Atlanta, Georgia" signed "Rev. CLAUDE WILLIAMS". The letter began "Dear Teacher" and read in part, "In appreciation of your service in building the vision and character of Georgia youth, DON WEST has chosen you to receive a gift copy of his 'Clods of Southern Earth'". A copy of the book, "Clods of Southern Earth" written by DON WEST and a pamphlet entitled "Something New in the Book World" issued by the People's Institute of Applied Religion were forwarded also. Mrs. GIBB advised that she did not request this book and had no other information concerning DON WEST, CLAUDE WILLIAMS or the People's Institute of Applied Religion.

Inquiry at the Atlanta Post Office developed that Post Office Box 1178 is rented in the name of The People's Institute of Applied Religion and that DONALD LEE WEST has been paying the box rent.

On 10/1/47 subject was observed by the writer having lunch with HOMER BATES CHASE at the Iris Garden Restaurant in the Atlantan Hotel.

According to T-1, WEST and CHASE met again at about midnight on October 1 in downtown Atlanta and apparently spent most of the time together discussing plans being made by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare for the Wallace meeting in Atlanta.

T-1 further advised that on 10/8/47 EUDICE TONTAK talked to WEST at considerable length concerning the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and the Wallace meeting. This woman is in very frequent contact with HOMER CHASE and is the Acting Secretary of the Atlanta Chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

According to T-1, MATHEW ROSS, Southern Organizer for the CP and brother-in-law of subject, arrived in Atlanta on October 10, 1947 and was invited to the WEST home for supper. ROSS was in Atlanta from

October 10 to October 15 and it is known through surveillances conducted by Special Agents CHARLES T. ALKES, ROBERT F. DILLARD, CLEMENT L. MCGINN, JR. and the writer that ROSS spent the night of October 13 at the home of subject.

Through T-1, it was also learned that on the night of 10/10/47 an individual named PETER PRICE contacted subject and stated that he had just arrived in town and would be in Atlanta for several months. He stated that he had been sent to stay in Georgia and that "FLORENCE" was to stay in Alabama. WEST said that he was glad to hear this but that it was hard to believe that "they" had finally come through. PRICE said that subject's brother-in-law was to arrive soon. (Apparently referring to NATHAN ROSS, brother-in-law of subject.) Subject replied that his brother-in-law had already arrived in town. PRICE advised WEST he was staying at the home of Mrs. W. E. WARREN, 442 Houston Street, and subject stated he would give this information to anyone who wanted to get in touch with PRICE.

In a letter from Birmingham to Atlanta, dated March 6, 1947, it was stated that information had been received from a highly confidential source indicating that ARTHUR G. PRICE alias PETER PRICE, a Negro, who was a United States Army Captain, had been active in Macon and Atlanta, Georgia attempting to organize units or chapters of the Southern Negro Youth Congress in these cities.

In the report of SA PATRICK M. RICE, dated at Atlanta March 19, 1947 entitled "Southern Negro Youth Congress", it was stated that Confidential Informant [] had made available a publication entitled, "Monthly Bulletin of the Southern Negro Youth Congress, 526-528 Masonic Temple Building, Birmingham, Alabama". This bulletin was listed as Volume 1, Number 1. In this bulletin the name of PETER PRICE was listed as the new Special Projects Director for the Southern Negro Youth Congress.

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T-1 has also stated that on the night of 10/10/47 Subject WEST was contacted by HOWARD BATES CHASE and CHASE arranged with WEST for them to have lunch with NATHAN ROSS on 10/11/47. CHASE also asked WEST if he had seen the article in the Atlanta Journal concerning "that public worker thing" in North Georgia. (These comments apparently referred to publicity which had appeared in Atlanta papers about trouble which the town officials of Dalton, Georgia were having with some of the town employees, who were members of the UPWA-CIO.) Subject WEST told CHASE that he had seen the articles and had found them to be interesting. CHASE made the comment that "wherever we are able to work, we get results".

T-1 was advised there was a meeting on 10/10/47 which PETER PRICE contacted WEST at the latter's residence and stated that he had just

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returned to Atlanta. WEST said he supposed PRICE would begin work on something in the near future and PRICE replied in the affirmative. WEST then made arrangements to see PRICE later the same night because he had a number of things to discuss with PRICE.

According to T-1, HOMER CHASE was again in contact with subject on the night of October 15 and indicated that he would be leaving town the following night for New York. CHASE stated that he had a big problem on his hands but thought that he had about resolved it. He stated that late in the day he had begun having reservations about "the fellow we are planning to put on". (It is believed that CHASE was referring to JOEL JORDAN, a Negro, since there had been indications that CHASE was working on an arrangement whereby JORDAN would take over an important part in the organization of the Communist Party in Georgia and would be working fulltime for the Party.) CHASE told WEST that his ideas had not gone over with the other members and that he had been in error by not consulting them first in a less formal manner. CHASE stated that the kind of position which he had contemplated for JORDAN should really be an elective one and not an appointive one and that a person should actually get the position as a result of an election by a district or state convention. T-1 further indicated that during this same conversation WEST told CHASE that "our other friend" (evidently meaning PETER PRICE) was looking for him. CHASE said that he would try to see the friend before he left on his trip to New York.

T-1 has further advised that CHASE was again in contact with WEST on 10/30/47 and told WEST that "the relative" had been in town for a short time on his way west. CHASE stated that "the relative" felt that there was no chance of PCA coming south. CHASE also indicated to WEST that he had told "the relative" of the developments within the Southern Conference for Human Welfare and some of the difficulties that were being experienced in arranging for the Wallace meeting and also about some of the friction existing among various factions within the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

It was also learned through T-1 that on the afternoon of 10/30/47 an individual giving his name as VICTOR SULA (phonetic) was in touch with Subject WEST and indicated that he had just arrived in town. WEST invited SULA to his home. Later on the same evening WEST endeavored to contact WILLIAM STAFFORD, Head of the UPWA-CIO in Atlanta. STAFFORD was not at home and WEST told STAFFORD'S wife that some friends had arrived in town from Washington that they had been in contact with.

WEST advised him that there were some friends in town that he would like for CHASE to meet. WEST indicated that there were two individuals and that they would be here a short time. He further indicated

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that SULA was from Yugoslavia and that SULA and his companion were interested in getting information about the south. CHASE then mentioned that they should certainly be told about the "story down in Dodge County", which he said was a "terrific story with international implications". CHASE was evidently referring to editorials which had appeared in the Atlanta Journal on October 27, 1947 concerning local election in Eastman, Georgia, where the votes of both Negroes and white persons had been openly bought and sold. WEST stated that this was what "he" was looking for and would like to "get those types of stories". WEST indicated that he would ask SULA to call CHASE later.

T-1 advised that he was present when WEST was again in contact with CHASE on 10/31/47 and CHASE said he had never received the call from SULA. WEST stated he had given CHASE'S number to SULA and CHASE replied that probably he had called when he, CHASE, had been away from home. WEST indicated that SULA'S companion had returned to Washington, but that SULA had left Atlanta for Mexico City, where he would attend the UNESCO meetings. WEST indicated that SULA was a remarkable fellow and had told him many interesting things about what went on in "his country" during the war. He said that SULA had been in the Partisan Forces and had been a prisoner of the Germans for a period of six years. WEST also indicated that SULA had asked about the possibility of having WEST'S book translated "over there". WEST said that he would certainly grant them his permission to translate and publish his book and that he was not interested in any royalties. WEST further indicated that he had told the visitors about the Walton County lynchings, the killing of convicts at Brunswick, Georgia by convict guards, recent instances in Atlanta where the homes of Negroes have been burned and also about the recent events in Dodge County during the local election. WEST stated that the visitors had been very interested in the south and had compared it with "their country", which is also agrarian. He stated it was remarkable to hear what had been done, how they had split up the big landed estates into individual farms.

The indices of the Atlanta Office were negative as to VICTOR SULA. A letter has been written to the Bureau and Washington Field asking for information which might identify this individual.

ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH SOUTHERN
CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

T-1 has furnished the following information concerning
... .. Atlanta on
.../30/47.

AT 100-259

On September 25, 1947 CLARK FOREMAN, President of the SCHW, while in Atlanta, contacted the home of Subject WEST. The latter was not at home and FOREMAN advised the wife of subject that he would like to leave a message to the effect that he was sure that they could obtain the \$1500 needed to arrange the Wallace meeting. FOREMAN indicated that this amount could be obtained in Atlanta. He further stated that he would probably see Mr. WALLACE in New York on 10/29/47 and would write WEST so that WEST could make arrangements to reserve the Atlanta Civic Auditorium or some other meeting hall. FOREMAN stated that the hall should be reserved in the name of the Committee for Georgia of the SCHW. FOREMAN also said that the lawyers with whom he had talked about the meeting had stated that because of a local ordinance the organization might be fined \$100 but that otherwise everything would be OK. It is believed that FOREMAN was referring to a local ordinance which prohibits mass meetings attended by colored and white people where the races are not segregated. FOREMAN also stated that there was some possibility that someone might try to break up the meeting. Mrs. WEST informed that they should be able to put a gathering from a place the size of Atlanta and it would be difficult to break up such a large meeting.

Later on the same day, according to T-1, WEST informed ROBERT B. CRUSE of FOREMAN'S conversation with his wife and said that FOREMAN wanted WEST to start making arrangements for a meeting hall. Since that time T-1 advises subject has been in contact with a number of individuals active in arranging for the Wallace meeting. He has taken a leading part in getting the arrangement committee organized and has attended most of the preliminary meetings in connection with the affair. CLARK FOREMAN, while in Georgia during the latter part of September, 1947, was supposed to have made arrangements with Reverend JOSEPH RABURN to act as General Chairman for the Committee for Georgia, SCHW, in planning the Wallace meeting. RABURN is a minister who formerly had a church in McRae, Georgia, which is the home town of the late EUGENE TALMADGE. RABURN broke with his congregation on the White Supremacy question and left McRae. He arrived in Atlanta on or about 10/1/47 from Valdosta, Georgia. Subject tried to contact him a number of times to talk to him about the Wallace meeting. Subject was not able to talk to RABURN until October 5. At that time it appeared that RABURN had begun to have some reservations about tying in with the SCHW on the Wallace meeting. It later developed that RABURN turned down the position as chairman and apparently plans to have nothing to do with the SCHW or the Wallace affair.

T-1 says that Subject was contacted by LESTER ALAN FALA, an assistant surgeon of the United States Public

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Health Service, who has been assigned to the Department of Agriculture in Atlanta since January, 1947. According to information received in Atlanta from the Bureau, its files indicate that Mrs. FALK allegedly was a member of the 11th A.D. Club of the Communist Party in New York City in January, 1944. She was said to have been active in the distribution of Party literature in 1943. Her husband has also been reported as having been a member of the 11th A. D. Club of the Communist Party in New York City in 1944.

Mrs. FALK was active in trying to obtain a place to hold the Wallace meeting. It was thought at first by subject and Mrs. FALK that the City Auditorium in Atlanta could be used. However, she determined that this would not be possible because of previous bookings. She also made some effort to obtain the auditorium of the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church for the meeting. However, it was finally decided by the persons involved that the Wheat Street Baptist Church, large Negro church, would be more satisfactory. It has now been officially announced by the SCHW that Mr. WALLACE will speak in Atlanta on the night of November 20, 1947.

According to T-1, on 10/18/47 WILLIAM STAFFORD, Head of the UPWA-CIO, Atlanta, talked to WEST concerning the SCHW and the Wallace meeting. During the conversation it was indicated that there appears to be a great deal of friction among members of the SCHW in Georgia and it seems that the Committee for Georgia is a rather unwieldy organization. WEST and STAFFORD discussed the possibility of organizing an Atlanta chapter which would affiliate directly with the national organization and would not be under the Committee for Georgia.

On 10/21/47 while talking to a man whom T-1 did not know, WEST mentioned the fact that former Austrian Premier KURT VON SCHUSCHNIGG was going to speak at Agnes Scott College in Decatur within a few days. WEST remarked that it was a pity that people would bring over a former dictator who had been a Red "baiter" and sponsor his speeches in Atlanta while such a "ruckus" could be raised about a former Vice President of the United States making a speech here. During this conversation WEST said he had received an official letter from the President of Oglethorpe University instructing him not to act as Chairman of the WALLACE meeting.

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AT 150-589

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

BIRMINGHAM

A copy of this report is being sent to Birmingham for information purposes because of the information contained therein concerning Reverend CLAUDE WILLIAMS and PETER PRICE.

NEW YORK

~~A copy of this report is being sent to New York for information because of the information contained therein about NATHAN ROSS.~~

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will continue to follow and report activities of subject through sources of information and confidential informants.

AT 100-559

Confidential Informant T-1:-

AT-1524, whose identity is
known to the Bureau.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA**

FILE NO. 100-559

REPORT MADE AT Atlanta, Georgia	DATE WHEN MADE 2/14/48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/29/47	REPORT MADE BY FOR L.D. CLEGG	ROS
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, with aliases			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject in frequent contact with HOMER B. CHASE, Communist Party District Organizer. MARVIN SHAW, Student Organizer, Communist Party, spent few hours in company of subject on 12/4/47. Subject was present at Chicago meeting, 12/29/47 when HENRY WALLACE announced his candidacy for president. Subject is president of the Georgia Wallace-for-President Group, and there is some indication that subject is interested in running for governor of Georgia on WALLACE ticket. Subject is having difficulties with president of Oglethorpe University, where he is employed, because of his activities. Subject spent few hours on 1/2/48 in company of M. WIONCZEK, Editor in Chief of Polish Press.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File: 100-20396

Report of Special Agent DONALD B. CLEGG, dated November 18, 1947, at Atlanta, Georgia

DETAILS:

PARTY ACTIVITIES

Informant T-1 advised that he was with subject on November 18, 1947, when subject was told by HOMER B. CHASE, Organizer for Communist Party District No. 31, that he had received a letter from subject's "relative" stating that one of the "good men in union circles" in Atlanta was

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SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
SEP 30 1966
FBI - BALTIMORE

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES NOV 15 1965 FBI - RICHMOND

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being transferred by his headquarters. No names were mentioned, but CHASE referred to the union man as "the fellow who recently bought himself a house". According to the informant, it is believed that they were referring to WILLIAM STAFFORD, head of the UPWA-CIO in Atlanta since STAFFORD is known to have purchased a house in Atlanta during the latter part of 1947. CHASE told subject that the union fellow wanted to stay in Atlanta and was doing everything possible to get his headquarters to leave him here, and that it was believed he would be able to remain until next summer. CHASE stated that subject's "relative" had indicated that he was going to write a letter to the president of the union asking that the Atlanta representative be allowed to remain here. The informant stated that CHASE and subject WEST always referred to NATHAN ROSS, Southern Organizer for the Communist Party, as "the relative" since he is married to a sister of subject WEST.

During this same conversation the informant stated that WEST remarked that he had never heard any more about the trip he was supposed to make "up there" around Thanksgiving. CHASE asked subject if he had been supplied with the names and everything, and subject replied that he had been furnished the names a long time ago. Subject stated he had been planning on making the trip around Thanksgiving, but that unless he heard something further from "up there" he would not go and that this would be all right with him because he was plenty busy around Atlanta. Subsequent information received from Informant T-1 indicated that WEST did not leave Atlanta during the Thanksgiving holidays.

On November 14, 1947, it was learned from Informant T-1 and also from a surveillance which was being conducted of HOMER B. CHASE that subject met CHASE at around 3:30 in the afternoon and that they drove to Douglasville, Georgia, where subject is purchasing a farm.

On November 18, 1947, Informant T-1 advised that he had been in the company of subject WEST when the latter was informed by HOMER B. CHASE that he was going to Savannah that night and that he could be reached in Savannah through the NSU Office or through "RED" at the same place. According to the Informant, during this same conversation CHASE and subject WEST discussed the possibility of there being violence at the WALLACE meeting which was to be held in Atlanta on November 20, 1947. Subject stated that he had learned through one of his students who worked for the Associated Press that they were installing photographic equipment on the top of a building across the street from the meeting hall in order to take photographs of any disturbance which might occur outside the hall.

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T-1 reported that on November 23, 1947, he was with subject WEST when HOMER B. CHASE discussed with subject a recent trip to South Georgia. CHASE and subject, according to the informant, were very guarded in their conversation and mentioned few proper names. However, the informant was able to remember that one of the persons discussed by them was a preacher in Darien, Georgia, a small town near Brunswick. According to the informant, it appeared that the first or last name of this preacher was "LITCHER". CHASE mentioned the fact that he had seen this preacher in Darien and subject stated he had heard that the preacher was quitting his job at Darien and was going with the "Peoples Institute". CHASE stated it was true that the preacher was thinking about leaving Darien and that he was sorry that he had not had an opportunity to confer with the preacher before the latter had reached a decision. Subject agreed and stated that he thought that "all good people ought to stay in a regular job". CHASE stated that he had discussed all the angles with the preacher and had told him that he ought to hesitate about getting out of Darien as his new work was not going to amount to anything. CHASE stated that he had told the preacher that it would be impossible to do anything through the "institute" unless it was tied up with something else, such as a Planters Union. Subject agreed and stated that he had been insisting to the head of the "Institute" for a long time that the only condition under which he would give him any support would be that something concrete came out in terms of farm organization.

CHASE and subject then discussed an individual from Alabama who had recently been in Brunswick, Georgia. It appeared to the informant that this individual had been planning to hold some sort of religious tent meetings, but had had difficulty in getting a place on which to erect a tent. CHASE indicated that this individual had been "hitting the bottle" and had made a very poor impression on some very fine people. CHASE also indicated that this individual had been very critical of the "national leadership" and that CHASE felt that this individual should make his criticisms in Alabama rather than in Georgia.

Through Informant T-2 it was learned that HOMER B. CHASE went to Birmingham over Thanksgiving, returning to Atlanta on November 27, 1947. On December 1, 1947, Informant T-1 advised that he had heard subject WEST ask CHASE if, while in Alabama, he had had an opportunity to see the fellow who is heading up the fertilizer thing. CHASE replied that he had only spent one day in Alabama, and had not had an opportunity to see the fellow. CHASE stated he had received a letter from the individual under discussion and that the individual had proposed

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putting out a paper in Georgia for the McAllister group, which is doing some organizational work among the farmers in Georgia. It is believed that they were referring to a group under a man named FRANK McALLISTER. The informant has previously heard CHASE and WEST discussing McALLISTER and his group, and they are very critical of him. There is no indication that McALLISTER is a member of the Communist Party, but he is believed to be a Socialist and has been referred to by CHASE, as a "trotskyite". CHASE and subject agreed that it would be a good idea to put out a farm paper, but that it should not be sponsored under any circumstances by the McAllister Group. Subject stated he had already written a letter to the individual in Alabama going into the background of the situation in Georgia.

CHASE then told subject that he had received a memorandum on farm work. Subject WEST stated that he had received a letter from "LEM" stating that a copy of the memorandum was being sent to subject; however, he had not as yet received the memorandum.

T-1 advised on December 4, 1947, that subject had been contacted by an individual who identified himself as MARVIN SHAW. The latter told subject that he had just arrived in Atlanta and wanted to get in touch with "the other friend of mine" during the few hours that he would be in town. SHAW told subject that he was a friend of "Nat's". Subject told SHAW that he did not know where the other individual could be reached at that time, but that he, subject, would meet SHAW in a few minutes at the Terminal Station.

A surveillance conducted at the Terminal Station by Special Agent CHARLES T. HAYNES and the writer disclosed that subject WEST met an individual there at about 9:15 PM. This individual was white, approximately 26 years of age, five feet five inches tall, weighing approximately 125 pounds, wearing thick tortoise shell rimmed glasses, and no hat. This individual was carrying a small week end bag and black brief case.

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It was known through Informant T-2 that SHAW also had contacted the residence of HOMER B. CHASE and had left a message that "MARVIN" was in town and could be reached at the same place where they had met before.

A surveillance conducted at the Terminal Station by Special Agent CHARLES T. HAYNES and the writer disclosed that subject WEST met an individual there at about 9:15 PM. This individual was white, approximately 26 years of age, five feet five inches tall, weighing approximately 125 pounds, wearing thick tortoise shell rimmed glasses, and no hat. This individual was carrying a small week end bag and black brief case. The contents of the brief case were made available for a very short time by a highly confidential and reliable source. It was noted that the material in the brief case pertained to student activities and that there were a number of publications concerning the National Student Association.

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A check of the Atlanta indices reflected that MARVIN SHAW is National Student Secretary of the Communist Party and had been active at Madison, Wisconsin during the Constitutional Convention of the National Students Organizations which was held there from August 30, 1947, to September 7, 1947.

Subject and SHAW were together at the Terminal Station until 10:45 PM when they went to the residence of HOMER B. CHASE. The latter joined them in subject's car and they returned to the Terminal Station, where they remained in the automobile until 12:50 AM on December 5, 1947. During this time, SHAW was seen showing CHASE and subject some of the material from his brief case. At 1:10 AM SHAW departed via Southern Railway for New York City. It was learned through the train conductor that he had arrived in Atlanta from New Orleans.

T-1 advised that he was in the company of subject on December 9, 1947, when subject and CHASE discussed a number of different things regarding activities in Atlanta. CHASE stated that he was having a lot of trouble getting the news letter printed. It was known that CHASE had been endeavoring to locate a printer who would put out a monthly news letter for the Communist Party of Georgia. All of the printers whom CHASE contacted in Atlanta turned the job down. Subject and CHASE both agreed that it would probably be necessary to get the news letter printed outside of Atlanta. Subject then asked CHASE what he had thought of the "little fellow" the other night. CHASE replied that the basic approach to the student thing seemed to be OK. CHASE then stated that he was a little worried about the negroes -- that their groups did not seem to be clicking just right and that they seemed unable to organize themselves without leadership. CHASE asked WEST if he had written the fellow downstate, whose first name was DEVOE. According to the informant, WEST gave no definite indication as to whether he had written to DEVOE. The latter is unknown to the informant.

On December 17, 1947, Informant T-1 heard HOMER B. CHASE tell subject that he had recently seen WEST's "relative" and that the "relative" was anxious to get out of his present job. CHASE also stated that the "relative" had been pleased with the WALLACE meeting in Atlanta and had offered apologies in Atlanta for not being able to be in Atlanta when the meeting was held. Regarding the "relative's" desire for a change in jobs, CHASE stated "we voted to keep him in until we find a suitable replacement". As stated above, CHASE and subject generally refer to NATHAN ROSS as "the relative".

According to T-1, on December 21, 1947, subject advised that CHASE had been going to Chicago to be present at the WALLACE

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meeting to be held the following day. They then made arrangements to meet that afternoon at the Georgian Terrace Hotel for a discussion.

Subject returned from Chicago on the morning of January 1, 1948. According to T-1, on the night of January 1, 1948, he contacted WILLIAM STAFFORD, head of the UPWA-CIO in Atlanta, and told STAFFORD that a friend from the coast was at his house and he asked STAFFORD to contact "our friend" and arrange for them to get together that night. A few minutes later, Informant T-2 reported that he was with HOMER B. CHASE when WILLIAM STAFFORD had contacted the latter and had told him that the "professor" wanted them to meet that night. They agreed to hold the meeting at the home of STAFFORD.

ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
FOR HUMAN WELFARE AND THIRD PARTY

On November 18, 1947, Informant T-1 heard subject WEST talking to WILLIAM STAFFORD, and the latter told subject that he was planning to meet HENRY WALLACE the next morning when he arrived in Atlanta, and that he planned to drive WALLACE from Atlanta to Macon where WALLACE was scheduled to appear on the night of November 19, 1948. STAFFORD invited subject to make the trip to Macon with them, and subject agreed to go if he could possibly arrange it.

On the night of November 19, 1947, T-1 heard subject WEST tell EDMONIA GRANT, Administrator of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, that he had ridden to Macon that morning with WALLACE, CLARK FOREMAN, Reverend JOSEPH RABUN and WILLIAM STAFFORD in the latter's car. He stated that he and STAFFORD had not remained in Macon for the WALLACE meeting, but had returned to Atlanta shortly after their arrival in Macon.

During the WALLACE meeting on the night of November 20, 1947, it was noted by Special Agent ROBIN O. GOTTEN and the writer that subject WEST, his wife, and daughter, occupied one of the front rows at the meeting.

T-1 reported that on November 21, 1947, he heard subject WEST talking to EDMONIA GRANT. Subject asked GRANT where BRANSON PRICE had gone, and GRANT stated that BRANSON had gone on to Louisville. Subject asked whether there would be any chance of getting BRANSON to remain in Georgia and act as secretary for the Committee for Georgia of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. GRANT stated that she thought

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it would be a good idea but that subject would have to write to BRANSON PRICE, CLARK FOREMAN, President of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and WEST's brother in law. By the latter she may have meant NATHAN ROSS, Southern Organizer for the Communist Party, or MIKE ROSS, who is an official of the CIO Tobacco Union in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Both of these individuals are married to sisters of subject WEST. BRANSON PRICE, according to information in the Atlanta files, is a negro girl who has been active in the Southern Conference for Human Welfare in North Carolina.

During the same conversation on November 21, 1947, Informant heard subject tell EDMONIA GRANT that he was in "hot water" at Oglethorpe University, where he is a professor, because of a remark which had been made by WALLACE during a speech at Macon. WALLACE had made the remark that one of the so-called liberal universities in Georgia had not allowed one of the professors to participate in the WALLACE meeting because they were expecting to get \$50,000 from WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST. It was known that subject had been sent an official letter from the President of Oglethorpe University a few weeks before the WALLACE meeting in which subject was instructed not to have any official connection with the WALLACE affair.

T-1 reported that he was with subject WEST on December 15, 1947, when he had a lengthy conversation with EUDICE TONTAK, Acting Secretary of the Atlanta Chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and a close contact of HOMER B. CHASE. EUDICE TONTAK mentioned the possibility of getting BRANSON PRICE from the national office in New York to come to Atlanta to work as secretary for the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. Both TONTAK and subject indicated they had discussed this possibility with CLARK FOREMAN and EDMONIA GRANT, who had appeared to be in favor of it. However, subject WEST stated that he had recently received a letter from BRANSON PRICE indicating that she could not leave New York. She had stated that there was a possibility that her sister, MARY PRICE, might make arrangements to travel to a number of important cities out of North Carolina doing organizational work for the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. WEST and TONTAK thought that this would be better than nothing, but that it would be much more satisfactory to have a full time secretary in Atlanta.

T-1 advised that he was with WEST on the afternoon of December 19, 1947, when WEST received a call from CLARK FOREMAN, President of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. FOREMAN, who was

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calling from Washington, stated that he was coming in behalf of the PCA and not the SCHW. He stated he had been asked by DEANIE (phonetic) to call some southern members and get them to attend a WALLACE meeting in Chicago on December 29, 1947. WEST stated that he was experiencing financial difficulties and doubted whether he could make the trip to Chicago.

On December 27, 1947, T-1 heard subject WEST tell WILLIAM STAFFORD that EUDICE TCHTAK had talked to him the night before, urging him to go to Chicago to the Wallace meeting, and stating that the local SCHW Chapter would pay his expenses. STAFFORD stated that he thought subject would go, and that he believed subject would make a better representative for Georgia than the other person who was going to Chicago, Reverend I. J. DOMAS, because the latter had not lived in Georgia very long. Subject asked STAFFORD if there was anything special that the Atlanta group wanted him to do at the meeting. STAFFORD suggested that in view of the fact that the WALLACE leaders believed they could get on the ballot in 46 of the 48 states, all but Georgia and Florida, subject should assure WALLACE that the people in Georgia would not calmly accept this fact but would fight to get him on the ballot in Georgia. STAFFORD stated that subject should try to arouse WALLACE's interest in what could be done here in this respect and that while he, STAFFORD, did not know the extent of the funds of the new party, it would be up to the people in Georgia to prove what could be done and to hope that the new party might help if possible. STAFFORD stated that this meeting would be one of the most historic events in American history, and that he could remember no time since the civil war when there was more of a political turning point than at present. STAFFORD stated that if C. B. BALDWIN or some of the other WALLACE leaders should respond even more than expected, WEST should try to get some definite commitments out of them and tell them that there were plenty of good people in Georgia, including WEST, who would make good full time WALLACE people.

Subject asked STAFFORD if there would be any kick-back among the Atlanta SCHW people about his being chosen to make the trip. STAFFORD stated that he could see no possibility of any kick-back except the phoney type which would be disregarded. STAFFORD reiterated his approval of subject's going to Chicago, and stated that the report which subject would make to the people in Atlanta, upon his return, would necessarily have more dignity than any report which might be made by DOMAS alone since the latter was prone to be rather frivolous in manner.

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T-1 further advised that he later heard subject WEST talking to Reverend I. J. DOMAS, who was also going to the Chicago meeting. They arranged to go together by plane on the morning of December 29, 1947. DOMAS stated that this meeting was vital, and that the SCH's money would be well spent in sending them to Chicago. Subject stated that he felt it was important that they should let people like BALDWIN and WALLACE know that the people in Georgia would make a real fight but that they would expect some help from FCA. Subject indicated that they would have to put up a real fight in order to get WALLACE on the ballot in Georgia.

T-1 later heard subject arrange with HENRY WALD, Treasurer for the Atlanta SCHW, to obtain the money for the expenses of his trip.

T-1 also heard WEST talking to EUDICE TONTAK on December 27, 1947. In answer to a question from subject as to what particular message or action the Atlanta group might desire him to take to Chicago, TONTAK stated that he should emphasize the necessity of the WALLACE Party actually working down in this area even though it appeared that WALLACE's name might not get on the ballot in Georgia. She stated that this was important because of the negro vote, and she stated that they should have made arrangements for a colored representative to attend the meeting from Georgia. Subject agreed that it would have been better to have had a negro and a white representative from Georgia.

TONTAK then asked subject WEST if he would be in a position to be interviewed on the radio after his return from Chicago. She stated that she was playing around with the idea of requesting a fifteen minute spot on station WAGA to be granted by the station as a public service, to have subject and Reverend DOMAS interviewed concerning the WALLACE meeting in Chicago. Subject WEST said he would think it over.

Informant T-1 and contacts at Delta Airlines furnished information that subject and Reverend DOMAS actually left Atlanta on the morning of December 29, 1947, for Chicago. WEST returned by train and arrived in Atlanta on January 1, 1948.

Through Informants T-1 and T-2 it was learned that on the night of January 6, 1948, there had been held a meeting of about thirty-five persons interested in the WALLACE Movement in Atlanta. This was in the nature of an organizational meeting. Subject and Reverend DOMAS made reports on the Chicago meeting. They then set up an organizational committee. Subject was elected president, a negro named MARSHALL from Macon was named vice-president, and WILLIAM STAFFORD was elected secretary.

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T-1 further stated that he has heard subject WEST indicate to some of his associates that he might be interested in running for governor of Georgia on the WALLACE ticket. It is known through Informant T-1 that WILLIAM STAFFORD, secretary of the Georgia Wallace-for-President Group, has sent a letter to G. B. BALDWIN of PCA suggesting that subject be made full time director of the Movement in Georgia. This letter stated that subject realizes that such a position would mean that his future in the educational field in Georgia will be finished, but that he is willing to take the chance if he gets some assurance from PCA that they will take care of him.

On January 7, 1948, Informant T-1 heard subject talking to HOMER B. CHASE and giving CHASE a resume of what had happened at the meeting on the previous night. They discussed the fact that no prominent labor people had attended the meeting although they had been invited, and they agreed that it appears that labor is playing "hands off". Subject WEST told CHASE that he felt that the New Party needed a full time representative in Georgia and that he would like to get the position although it would mean that he would have to give up his job at Oglethorpe and that his future would be very uncertain.

MISCELLANEOUS

On December 8, 1947, T-1 advised he heard subject talking to an individual named JACK, whom the informant believed to be JACK LORENZ, a student at Oglethorpe University. Subject suggested that JACK write an editorial for the school paper concerning the visit to Atlanta of the Freedom Train. Subject suggested that the tone of the editorial should be that the students were proud of Atlanta, which would act as host to the Freedom Train with no regulations on the segregation of the races. Subject indicated that this would be a good theme, following on the footsteps of the non-segregated WALLACE meeting.

On December 16, 1947, T-1 heard subject tell WILLIAM STAFFORD that some individual, giving the name of "ELMER DAVIS" had called the Registrar's Office at Oglethorpe University on that day and had stated that they could not understand why Oglethorpe University allowed a "red" like WEST to remain on the faculty. This individual had stated that subject WEST was sending out "red" literature on the stationery of the University. He also advised the Registrar's Office that he was writing a letter to the Hearst Foundation concerning this matter.

Subject told STAFFORD that the Registrar's Office had reported this call to the president of the University, Dr. PHILIP WELTMER,

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and that WELTNER had called subject to his office and had had him "on the carpet". Subject stated that the caller had hit a sensitive spot because Oglethorpe was expecting to receive \$50,000 from the Hearst Foundation, and that an incident such as this might "squeer the deal". Subject stated that WELTNER had also brought up the fact that HENRY WALLACE in one of his recent speeches in Georgia had stated that a certain school in the south would not let him speak on the campus because the school was hoping to receive \$50,000 from WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST. WELTNER had wondered how WALLACE had secured this information, and had assumed that subject had been the one who had furnished the information to WALLACE.

Subject asked STAFFORD if he knew anyone by the name of "ELMER DAVIS" and STAFFORD replied that the only one he knew of by this name was the columnist who had acted as head of the Office of War Information during the War. They both agreed that this could not have been the party who had called the University, and also agreed that very probably it was a fictitious name. Subject indicated he felt he was in a very precarious position at the school, and he was very anxious to identify the person making the call. He stated that the caller had left no telephone number or address, and that there was hardly any way to follow up and identify him. He stated that the only thing he could think of that might have been called "red" literature was some teachers literature which he had sent out and that he supposed that the "red baiters" would classify anything referring to the Constitution or the Bill of Rights as "Communist stuff".

According to T-1 subject called a number of other persons in Atlanta and asked them whether they were acquainted with an individual named "ELMER DAVIS", but none of them was able to identify the person.

Through T-1 it was learned that on the morning of January 2, 1948, subject WEST spent two hours with MELIECZYLAW S. WIONCZEK, Editor in Chief of the Polish Press, in New York City, and correspondent for the Polish Press to the United Nations. WIONCZEK had arrived in Atlanta on January 1, 1948, and contacted WEST, stating that JAMES DOMBROWSKI at the Southern Conference Office in New York City had suggested that he get in touch with subject WEST upon his arrival in Atlanta because subject could possibly furnish him information about problems of Georgia and the South.

Information furnished by the New York Office indicated that WIONCZEK replaced EDWARD JOSEPH FALKOWSKI as Editor in Chief of the Polish Press Agency in New York in May 1947. WIONCZEK claims to have visited

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thirteen foreign countries since the end of the war and is presently touring the United States to obtain news material for distribution in Poland. During 1947 he visited Havana and Puerto Rico, and among persons he contacted at these localities were known Communist Party labor leaders. Various interpretations have been accorded his political beliefs. Some sources indicated he is a member of the Polish Socialist Party and, although not a Communist, he is cooperating to a certain extent with the Polish Communist regime, but within definite limitations. Other sources maintained he was formerly a member of the Polish Socialist Party and, because of political considerations, is cooperating to a certain extent with Communist elements in Poland.

- P E N D I N G -

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LEADS

THE NEW YORK DIVISION

A copy of this report is being furnished the New York Office because of the information contained therein about NATHAN ROSS and also about the Third Party Movement in Georgia.

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia

Will continue to follow and report activities of subject through sources of information and confidential informants.

Atlanta 100-559.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1 - AT-1324, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

T-2 - AT-1331, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO. 100-800 DLS

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 2-14-48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/14-15/48	REPORT MADE BY DONALD B. CLEGG
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject continues to contact **EMER B. CHASE**, C.P. District Organizer. He is Executive Vice-Chairman, Georgia Wallace-for-President group. Has been advised by President of Oglethorpe University, where he is employed as a professor, his services will not be needed after present scholastic year. Has been offered position as President of Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. Declined this offer in order to remain in South. Subject recently sent telegram to Governor of Ga. re activities of **EMER B. CHASE**. Also made talk at Morey University, Atlanta, against U.S.S.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau file 100-20096
Report of SA **DONALD B. CLEGG**, 2-14-48, at Atlanta

DETAILS: PARTY ACTIVITIES

Informant T-1 advised he was with subject on January 29, 1948 while subject was having a discussion with **WILLIAM W. STAFFORD**, Head of the U.P.W.A. - G.I.s, in Atlanta, concerning the local Wallace-for-President group. According to the Informant, it appeared that the group had prepared 300 letters announcing a conference of WALLACE forces, to be held in Macon, Georgia on February 21, 1948. **STAFFORD** told subject he had talked to **FLOYD**, and they had decided to wait a little while before mailing out the letters. (An individual named **FLOYD HUNTER**, Executive Director of the Community Planning Council of Atlanta, is very active in the WALLACE group. He is known to be a contact of **EMER B. CHASE**, Organizer for Communist Party, District No. 31).

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....	FILED.....
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Atlanta, 100-500

WEST told STAFFORD he thought it would be a good thing to hold up on sending out the letters because "our friend is going to be up the way". WEST said that he had been talking to "our friend" the other day, and that the "set-up there is a little peculiar". WEST said he could not quite understand "their" attitude toward the South. WEST said "our friend" had made a long-distance call to one of the top fellows, and the man he had talked to was more interested in discussing his new baby boy than anything else. WEST indicated that the time was getting close and they would have to get out the letters about the conference in Macon, but that he was "up a stump". He commented that he was a free American, and that he had a good mind just to take a chance and come out for whom he pleased. He added he guessed, however, that such action would be sort of foolhardy.

Informant T-1 advised he did not understand the exact meaning of the above part of the discussion between subject and STAFFORD, but added that they usually refer to HOMER B. CHASE, Organizer for the Communist Party, District #31, as "our friend". It was also known at the time that CHASE planned to go to New York to visit Party Headquarters within the next few days.

T-1 reported on January 31, 1948 that he had again been with subject on that date, when subject had a discussion with HOMER B. CHASE. According to the Informant, WEST indicated to CHASE that C. B. BALDWIN, Head of the Wallace-for-President Committee, had recognized the group, of which WEST was leader in Georgia, as the official WALLACE group in this State. WEST said they were glad to get this official recognition, but they had not come out so well on the request for finances. According to him, BALDWIN had stated they were behind on salaries at WALLACE headquarters, but had hopes of receiving money from some unidentified individual in Georgia, and also from sources in Florida. CHASE told subject that WALLACE was slated to speak in Florida in the near future, under the sponsorship of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, and had been guaranteed \$25,000.

T-1 said that during the same discussion, CHASE told subject he was leaving the following day, and hoped to be back in Atlanta by February 4, 1948. CHASE said he would send a wire to "EUDICE", saying "go ahead -- or something like that". Subject and CHASE both agreed it would be better to get "their" O.K.. (The "EUDICE" referred to above is believed to be EUDICE TONTAK, who is frequently in touch with both CHASE and subject.) Subject said he hoped CHASE had a good trip and found out a lot of things "we need to know". CHASE said he would do the best he could; that he, subject, knew how things were - that "somebody up there can make things very difficult".

Atlanta, 100-559

T-3 reported that ROBERT E. CHASE returned from a trip to New York City on February 7, 1948, and within a few minutes after his arrival in Atlanta, he contacted subject. The Informant was with subject at the time, and heard CHASE say he was sort of "non plussed" by his reception in New York. He said he had never gotten to see the fellow whom he had gone up to see, and that "they have nothing but contempt for you up there". CHASE said, "You wouldn't treat a Fascist prisoner the way I was treated", and that it was not only he, CHASE, who received such treatment, but that others were treated likewise, to a greater or lesser degree. Subject said there seemed to be something seriously wrong, and CHASE agreed, stating "it's that guy we net down on the beach". CHASE said this unidentified individual was really a "bad actor", and that "they are so afraid of him they almost crawl". CHASE said he thought it over, and decided there was nothing to be gained by blowing up about it, and subject agreed that nothing could be accomplished by blowing up "at this stage". CHASE said he did not think "he", the unidentified individual, was beloved by too many people, and that his time had come.

CHASE then stated that subject's "relative" had finally gotten into trouble. Subject said he had received a note from "the relative", who said things were not going so well, and that he would let the subject know later what his status was when things shaped up. Subject then asked CHASE if "the relative" was completely out, and CHASE replied that he was "off the payroll". CHASE commented that "the relative" had contributed to his being let out, because he had never taken advantage of what "we have done down here, and has never had a show-down on it". CHASE stated that "they" also had an excuse for removing "the relative", because he had refused to go out of the city. CHASE said the way it had been done was what worried him, in that "nobody was consulted, as usual". Subject agreed that this was true, and said he had mentioned in a little note to the "relative" that nobody down here was ever consulted about things, and therefore knew nothing about them. CHASE said it was directly opposite to what a group of southern people had recommended a couple of months ago. CHASE further stated that nobody ever had anything to say, and that the "guy" ruled with an iron hand.

T-2 advised he could not furnish the exact significance of the above discussion, but stated that NATHAN ROSS, Southern Organizer for the Communist Party, is usually referred to by CHASE and subject as "the relative". ROSS is married to a sister of subject.

T-1 reported he was with subject on February 26, 1948, when subject and CHASE had a discussion on a situation which had developed in South Georgia. According to the Informant, CHASE told subject that things were not going so well in Brunswick. CHASE said he had just received the information which subject had sent him, and he asked subject if he, subject, had received a letter from "that lady".

Atlanta, 100-550

WEST said he had received a very ugly letter from her. CHASE commented that this was probably "put upon her by this other guy". Subject agreed, stating she couldn't have had any information on how the thing was conducted if she had not talked with "him". CHASE said that HARRIS thought "them two guys are turning as phony as a \$5.00 bill". Subject said he had been afraid that "those two guys were going to cause us trouble". CHASE said he was going to call HARRIS that night and would go down there the first part of the following week. He said that "they are vicious". Subject said the letter which he had received showed traces of viciousness. CHASE commented that "the rest of them are standing firm, and are ready to move against 'those guys'". Regarding the letter subject had received, CHASE said that "he" probably wrote it and got her to sign it. Subject stated he had written "her" back a nice letter, saying her help would be appreciated, even if she could not serve as an officer. CHASE then told subject he was going down and "clean those guys out". Subject said that both of the "guys" are prima donas, and this type sooner or later "will give you trouble". CHASE said he would definitely get them out, and both CHASE and subject agreed that the unidentified individuals referred to would probably become more vicious.

T-1 informed he was again with subject on the following day, February 27, 1948, when CHASE talked to subject, and said he was going "down there" on the following Monday. CHASE indicated he had made a 'phone call to "the working fellow", and that he really wanted CHASE to come down. CHASE said "the working fellow" seemed to think the thing was pretty serious, and that "they" were really getting dangerous. CHASE added he rather doubted "they" would go to the papers and things like that because of the way they earned their livings and their connections. CHASE said, "I've got to move against them before they do get other connections. Subject agreed, and commented that "remember way back yonder on that church deal -- I voted against that".

T-1 said he did not understand the exact significance of the discussions between subject and CHASE regarding the situation in Brunswick. He added, however, that on February 24, 1948, he had been with subject during a discussion with EUDICE TONTAK. During this discussion subject said he had received a letter from a Mrs. MORRIS, in Brunswick, in which she indignantly regretted the manner in which she had been appointed as a Vice-Chairman of the Georgia Wallace-for-President group during the conference at Macon, Georgia on February 21, 1948. According to the informant, the discussion

Atlanta, 100-610

between TONTAK and subject indicated the Brunswick delegation to the conference had created some friction, and that some of them were dissatisfied when they left Mason. It was indicated that "BERT" and his wife, and a "MAY" were also dissatisfied. BERT GILLEN is a member of the Communist Party in Brunswick, Georgia, and ARCHER TORREY, a former Episcopal Minister, at Darien, Georgia, is a strong Communist sympathizer, if not a Party member.

T-2 informed, on March 4, 1948, subject had told him CHASE returned to Atlanta that day, and subject had met CHASE downtown for a discussion. Subject did not tell the informant the nature of his discussion with CHASE. However, he did say that CHASE was leaving town again within the next few days.

T-2 reported on March 13, 1948 that subject had told him CHASE arrived in Atlanta, by plane, from Miami, that afternoon. Subject indicated to the informant that CHASE had gone to Miami to assist Communist leaders there in difficulties which had been brought about by the public exposure of Communist leaders and activities in that area by Miami newspapers. Subject told T-2 that he met CHASE in downtown Atlanta shortly after CHASE'S return.

On the afternoon of March 13, 1948, Special Agents PAUL F. TORREY and CHARLES T. HAYNES, JR. observed subject and CHASE together at the Fig 'n Whistle Restaurant, on Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta. Subject's wife was with him at the time.

On March 16, 1948, T-1 reported he had been with CHASE and subject during a discussion on that day, when CHASE told subject he was satisfied with the way things were going in Atlanta, but he was still worried about things "down State". CHASE said he supposed there would be a vicious blast in the papers on the following day after President TRUMAN'S speech. Subject agreed, and said things looked pretty bad on a National scale. CHASE said it was a sign of "their desperation on the International situation, and their desperation in seeing this Third Party snowball". Subject then mentioned that TAYLOR had submitted his bill to the Senate, the bill about the Marshall Plan, and that three Senators, LANGER, PEPPER and TAYLOR, had been the only ones voting for it. CHASE suggested that sometime in the near future, someone in the Wallace movement in Georgia should go on the radio about the revolt of the Southern Governors. Subject indicated that thought would be given to this suggestion by the Wallace group.

On March 18, 1948, subject told Informant T-2 that he had an appointment to meet CHASE at 8:30 that night, at the Fig 'n Whistle Restaurant.

On March 19, 1948, subject told Informant T-2 he was going to see CHASE again that night, in downtown Atlanta.

Atlanta, 100-550

On March 28, 1948 subject's wife told Informant T-1 that her husband was supposed to see CHASE that afternoon, at LUCIE'S house, on Washington Street.

ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THIRD PARTY

A news article in the Macon Telegraph and News, dated February 22, 1948, stated a closed conference of Georgia Wallace-for-President leaders had been held at Macon, Georgia on the previous day. According to the article, subject had been one of the most prominent speakers at the conference, and had been named Executive Vice-Chairman of the organization to make plans for a State-wide conference of Georgia Wallace forces to be held later.

Informant T-1 advised that subject has been very active as Vice-Chairman of the Wallace group. According to the Informant, subject has been in almost daily contact with WILLIAM W. STAFFORD, Organizer of the U.P.W.A. - CIO, in Atlanta, a member of the Communist Party, and Secretary of the Georgia Wallace group. Subject has also been in frequent touch with EUDICE TONTAK, Secretary of the Atlanta chapter of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

According to information received from T-2, the Wallace group now has a four-room office, at 85 Alexander Street, N. W., and is planning a State-wide convention, to be held at Macon, Georgia, on May 8, 1948.

On March 3, 1948 Informant T-1 advised he had been with subject when the latter told Mrs. FLOYD HUNTER and Mrs. WILLIAM W. STAFFORD that Dr. PHILIP WELTNER, President of Oglethorpe University, had called him into the office that day, and had told him his services would no longer be needed after the end of the present scholastic year. Subject said Dr. WELTNER had explained that this move was not being taken in light of his affiliation with the Wallace forces, but because subject was giving so much time to off-campus work he was not able to devote sufficient time to activities at the college.

T-2 advised on March 12, 1948 that he had heard subject tell FLOYD HUNTER and BILL STAFFORD that ARTHUR MORGAN, former Director of the T.V.A., and former President of Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio, was in town, and was coming to see him about taking the position of President of Antioch College. Subject indicated the salary to be around \$10,000 per year, and that one of the good points in taking such a position was that his effectiveness would be increased. He said, however, that he did not want to leave the South again. He

MEMPHIS, 100-500

said that in talking to MORGAN he planned to put his cards on the table, by telling MORGAN that he, subject, was progressive, and that the college people would probably become dissatisfied with him. According to the Informant, both HUSHEP and STAFFORD, although they thought the offer was an excellent opportunity, were anxious for subject to remain in Georgia. Subject said he planned to reject the offer.

On March 25, 1943 T-1 advised that during a discussion between Reverend I. J. DOMAS, Unitarian-Universalist Minister, in Atlanta, and subject, DOMAS had indicated that a number of people in other parts of the country were very much interested in subject's taking the job at Antioch College. Subject said they had things all wrong, and that he would not accept the job if appointed. Subject told DOMAS he had had a talk with the President of Oglethorpe on that day, and that the College was offering him \$2000 in settlement for the salary he would have drawn for the rest of the year had he not been requested to leave.

On March 25, 1948 an article appeared in the Atlanta Journal, stating that on the previous Wednesday night subject and Reverend I. J. DOMAS had spoken at a meeting attended by approximately 150 students at Emory University, Atlanta. According to the article, subject had claimed in his talk that in American politics men had gotten into power since ROOSEVELT'S death who disapprove of his program, and who have thrown out even attempting to back ROOSEVELT'S policies. On the question of Universal Military Training, subject had stated that "preparedness, of necessity, will lead to war". He attacked the British stand in Greece, and charged that Britain had persuaded the United States to back it. Subject hit "Wall Street" as having "caused the last war".

The article also stated that DOMAS and subject urged the students present to sign a petition urging President TRUMAN, in effect, to backtrack on his request for U.M.T. According to the article, only a handful of students present were willing to affix their signatures to the appeal.

On March 26, 1948, Informant T-1 advised subject had told him he was going to Birmingham on the following Sunday to attend a conference, which had something to do with organizing religious leaders in the South for WALLACE, and it would probably be called "Religious Associates for Wallace".

Atlanta, 100-559

On March 23, 1948, articles appeared in Atlanta newspapers indicating the Ku Klux Klan night parade in Lawrenceville and Conyer, Georgia this night. County elections were to be held the following day. Acting Governor H. D. THOMPSON issued a statement that Georgia State Troopers would be sent to Lawrenceville and Conyers, Georgia to observe this parade, but would not interfere with instant parade unless some State law was violated.

T-1 advised that subject sent the following telegram to THOMPSON on March 23, 1948:

"GOVERNOR H. D. THOMPSON
GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE
ATLANTA

"YOUR STATEMENT REGARDING USE OF STATE PATROL TO WATCH PROPOSED KU KLUX KLAN PARADE IN LAWRENCEVILLE TONIGHT IS POINTLESS. WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IS HAVE THE PATROL ON GUARD AT THE POLLS TOMORROW TO GUARANTEE THE RIGHT OF EVERY CITIZEN NEGRO OR WHITE TO CAST HIS BALLOT. AS EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE GEORGIA WALLACE FOR PRESIDENT COMMITTEE I ASK THAT YOU USE YOUR POWER AS ACTING GOVERNOR TO GUARANTEE FREE VOTING RIGHTS FOR EVERY CITIZEN IN LAWRENCEVILLE AND IN EVERY OTHER GEORGIA COUNTY WHEREEVER THERE IS A KLAN THREAT.

DON WEST
EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN
GEORGIA WALLACE FOR PRES.
85 ALEXANDER STREET."

- PENDING -

Atlanta, 100-950

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1 --- AT-1324

T-2 --- AT-1324

Best Copy

Atlanta, 100-139

THE SAVANNAH DIVISION

A copy of this report is being furnished Savannah because of information contained therein about activities in Brunswick, Georgia.

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will continue to follow and report activities of subject through sources of information and Confidential Informants.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-536 AMT

REPORT MADE AT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE JUN 27 1948	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-1, 2, 6-8, 9-48	REPORT MADE BY ROYCE B. THOMPSON
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject was in Savannah, Georgia May 2, 1948 at which time he spoke at First Congregational Church (colored) at morning and evening services. Subject was in company of ROBERT HAWKES, leading Savannah Communist, most of the day. WOODROW WILLIAMS, Savannah photographer who took photographs for Oglethorpe University Annual has no photograph of the subject.

- R U C -

REFERENCES:

Bureau file number 100-20396.
Report of Special Agent DONALD B. CLEGG dated April 6, 1948 at Atlanta.
Atlanta letters to Savannah dated April 27 and 29, 1948.

DETAILS:

The Atlanta Office advised by letter dated April 29, 1948 that information had been received indicating that the subject would be in Savannah, Georgia on Sunday, May 2, 1948, to deliver an address at the First Congregational Church, and that he would probably contact individuals referred to as "EDWARDS" and "HAWK".

A surveillance on subject's activities was made by Special Agents LEWIS S. DABNEY and DAN A. BRANT on May 2, 1948. At

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 2 Atlanta (Encl.) (100-559) 2 Savannah		100-536-261 JUN 23 1948 SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED FBI - BALTIMORE U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1946 O - 670340

100-536-390
 AMT
 MP 113

10-536

1:25 A.M. on that date the subject's car, a 1942 four door Nash sedan, 1943 Georgia license E/X95048 was observed parked near the First Congregational Church, corner of Habersham and East Taylor Streets in Savannah, Georgia. It was noted that this is a colored church. At 1:05 P.M. two white men were seen leaving the church, and to drive away in a black 1942 sedan believed to be an Oldsmobile, bearing 1948 Georgia tag E-71-791. These men have not been identified, although their descriptions are retained in the Savannah files. At 1:30 P.M. the subject left the church and proceeded to the home of ROBERT ELLIS HAWKES at Whitaker and Bolton Streets in Savannah. ROBERT HAWKES is the N.M.U. Port Agent for Savannah, Georgia, and a review of the Savannah files reflects that he is the most active communist in the city of Savannah; that he is the leading contact of HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party organizer for Georgia in Atlanta on the latter's trips to Savannah, and that he has a long record for communistic activities.

At approximately 3:15 P.M. the subject obtained a package from his car and got into HAWKES' car which HAWKES drove to 512 West 34th Street, Savannah, the residence of JOHN MARSHALL. JOHN D. MARSHALL is President of the Southern Association of Colored Railway Trainmen and Firemen. He is listed as one of several vice-chairmen of the Georgia Wallace for President Committee. From the home of MARSHALL, WEST and HAWKES drove around Fellwood Homes, a negro housing project in West Savannah, following which they stopped at the Savannah Hotel where WEST made a reservation. At 5:10 P.M. the subject and HAWKES returned to HAWKES' residence and approximately thirty minutes later the subject left in his own car and was observed at the corner of Broughton and Price Streets in Savannah talking with a well-dressed negro in an automobile. This negro has not been identified, but was approximately 26 or 28 years of age; 5'9" tall; weighing 175 pounds; of medium build with a large black mustache and black kinky hair. It will be noted that the intersection where the subject contacted this negro is near the N.M.U. Hall, and that the description of this negro is generally similar to that of EDWARD EVANS who is a seaman and who signed up with HAWKES as a member of the Water-Front Branch of the Communist Party January 19, 1948.

100-536

The subject at 6:10 P.M. returned to HAWKES residence and almost immediately left again for the First Congregational Church. ROBERT HAWKES and his wife, JANET ELIZABETH HAWKES, were observed entering the First Congregational Church also at 6:25 P.M. The subject remained at the church until 7:45 P.M. when he left returning to HAWKES residence. At 9:40 P.M. the subject drove to the Savannah Hotel where he spent the night. He checked out of the Savannah Hotel at 7:18 A.M. Monday morning, May 3, 1948.

Mr. WOODROW WILLIAMS, 8 Liberty Street, Savannah, Georgia photographer, advised that he had made photographs of students and faculty members of Oglethorpe University. He checked through his order blanks but was unable to locate a record of an order for DONALD LEE WEST. Mr. WILLIAMS together with the reporting Agent rechecked the order blanks and made a complete check of all of the proofs of photographs taken at Oglethorpe University, but without locating a proof negative or order for WEST. Mr. WILLIAMS advised that a number of the students and faculty members did not have their pictures taken but rather used pictures taken the previous year for the annual which annual had not been published. Mr. WILLIAMS was unable to furnish the name of the Atlanta photographer who made the photographs for the 1947 annual, but he suggested that the name of this photographer could be obtained from Oglethorpe University, and through this photographer a photograph of the subject could probably be obtained. The old photograph of WEST forwarded by the Atlanta Office is being returned herewith.

The "EDWARDS" referred to in Atlanta letter dated April 29, 1948 as a possible contact of subject WEST may be JAMES EDWARDS, colored, 223 Ferrell Street, Savannah, Georgia who is an employee of the Pierpont Manufacturing Company and President of Local 870, IUMMSWA, CIO, and believed to be President of the Shore-side Branch of the Communist Party in Savannah, Georgia.

ENCLOSURE TO ATLANTA: One photograph of subject WEST.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

SV. 100-536

LEADS

THE ATLANTA DIVISION, at Atlanta, Georgia, will consider the possibility of obtaining a photograph of the subject through the photographer who made the photographs for the Oglethorpe University annual in 1947.

Will advise the Savannah Office as to the person to whom 1948 Georgia tag E-71-791 was issued.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

FILE NO. 100-20396

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 6/9/48.	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3/24-7/10, 21, 23, 30/48	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH P. SYLVESTER, JR. :hs
TITLE CHANGED: DONALD LEE WEST, was			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject presently residing at Route 4, Douglasville, Ga. at the Unitarian Work Camp. Subject in constant contact with HOMER BATES CLASE, CP D.O., District No. 31, Atlanta, Ga. Subject very active in Georgia Wallace-for-President Group; gave keynote address at Winston-Salem, NC, 4/25/48; acted as Chairman of the People's New Party at Macon, Ga. 5/3/48; attended Progressive Party Convention in Philadelphia and was named National Committeeman from Georgia for the Progressive Party. Subject contacted by IRVING GOFF, CP D.O., New Orleans, La. 6/9/48.

-P-

REFERENCE: Bureau File No. 100-20396.
Report of SA DONALD B. CLEGG, Atlanta, dated 4/6/48.

DETAILS: The title of this report is marked changed to indicate the additional alias of JIM WEAVER as supplied by Confidential Informant T-1.

Confidential Informant T-2 advised that subject is presently residing at Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia on the old EPH DUTLER farm located nine miles outside Douglasville, Georgia, on a dirt road, which is operated by the Unitarian Church as a work camp.

100-10401-2

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED SEP 30 1956 FBI - BALTIMORE
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 1 - Birmingham (Info.) 1 - New Orleans (Info.) 1 - New York (100-22100) 2 - Memphis 1 - Savannah (Info.) (100-536) ② - Atlanta		SEARCHED SERIALIZED b6 b7C	100-15680-127

T-1 advised that the subject was a congregational minister, one of the founders of the Highlander Folk School, former Communist Party trade union director, former State secretary of the Communist Party of Kentucky, former county school superintendent in Georgia and a professor at Oglethorpe University, Georgia. T-1 stated that subject is a brother-in-law of MAT ROSS and BART LOGAN.

T-1 stated that "DON WEST, who is about forty-seven or forty-eight years of age, is a native of the hill country of North Georgia -- one of the many children in a large family. DON worked his way through college (part of the time, by radio singing, he said), obtained scholarship for study in Denmark. Became ordained minister of Congregational Church, joined Socialist party and helped organize Highlander Folk School (he and MYLES HORTON were the two founders) at Monteagle, Tenn. Joined Communist Party early in 1934, assigned to North Carolina district as trade union organizer September, 1934, using the name of JIM WEAVER. Not successful in work with unions but very effective among intellectuals at Chapel Hill. Led Burlington defense campaign; raised large funds with aid of PAUL GREEN, W. T. COUCH (head of Univ. of N. C. Press) and many faculty members at the University.

"After about a year in North Carolina WEST went to Kentucky as party district organizer, remaining there about a year and a half or two years. I don't know whether he was removed or asked to leave. Succeeded by PAUL KELLOGG.

"WEST'S reports to the national office had been very encouraging, showing considerable progress, and rapidly increasing membership which reached a registration figure of over 200. (As in most Southern states, initiations and dues were used by the district organizer as a subsidy). When KELLOGG arrived and took over the District he could locate only a total of about 25 members. Most of the branches and sections reported in WEST'S reports were never located and over 175 paper members of the party disappeared from the face of the earth. As a result, WEST'S stock in the party dropped to a low, little above zero. For a year or two he remained as inconspicuous as possible. Then he began writing extensively, especially for left-wing press.

"I know of his subsequent activities primarily from newspaper publicity. After being county supt. of schools in a North Georgia County he became a professor at Oglethorpe University. Now reported to be officer of Wallace campaign. A published volume of poems about two years ago received considerable publicity in literary reviews.

"Married (wife named MABEL), several children.

"One sister, JANETTE (who has spent some time in Soviet Union), is married to MAT ROSS. Another, BELLE, is married to EART LOGAN, who became District Organizer for North Carolina in 1927. (They are reported to be living at Phoenix, Arizona.) Before her marriage BELLE worked in a North Carolina Textile mill. She attended a national training school of the party (1936 or 37)".

* * *

Confidential Informant [redacted] attended the Fifth National Convention of the Workers Alliance in Chicago, Illinois on August 29 and 30, 1940 as delegates from Columbus, Ohio and advised that various other Communist Party members attended instant convention in Chicago and among them was DONALD WEST, Bethel, Ohio, minister and writer for "Daily Worker".

b2
b7D

RALPH MCGILL, Editor of the "Atlanta Constitution", in an article dated June 18, 1948 entitled "DON WEST and The Wallace Campaign" stated that DON WEST was listed on the letterheads of the Georgia Wallace-for-President Committee as Executive Vice Chairman of the Committee; that on Page 5 of a report prepared by the Committee on Un-American Activities on the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, dated June 16, 1948 subject is listed as a poet, professor and member of the Communist Party; that the "Daily Worker" for June 11, 1934 reflected that DON WEST of Louisville, Kentucky, was being sought by authorities on a charge of inciting to insurrection; and in the June, 1934 issue of the "Daily Worker" WEST was identified as a Communist Party organizer in the South scheduled to speak at a mass meeting in Boston. This article further reflected that JOHN P. FREY, President of the Metal Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, testified in August 1938 before the Special House Committee that "DON WEST, Louisville, Kentucky: This man, formerly in charge of Atlanta, Ga. for the Communist Party ... sneaked out of Atlanta on a truck, under a load of gunny sacks, when Assistant Solicitor Hudson swore out a warrant for his arrest. After a short period in New York he was sent to Kentucky and made organizer there. It has been reported ... that he was a part-time employee of the Textile Workers Union ... and at the same time was a district organizer of District No. 23, Communist Party". The article stated that in the "Daily Worker" of March 13, 1934, Page 5, Column 6, DON WEST was referred to as a member of the Communist Party. In the November 1, 1935 issue of the "Daily Worker" he was again referred to as the Communist Party organizer in Kentucky. In the July 20, 1936 issue of the "Daily Worker" he was listed as a member of the National

Campaign Committee of the Communist Party from Louisville, Kentucky. In the June 22, 1937 issue of the "Daily Worker" DON WEST was listed as the Communist Party organizer from Kentucky. In the October 5, 1936 issue of the "Daily Worker" WEST was listed as one of those behind the campaign of EARL BROWDER, General Secretary of the Communist Party, for President.

RALPH MCGILL, Editor of the "Atlanta Constitution", in an editorial dated June 27, 1948 stated that on March 13, 1934 the "Daily Worker" carried a poem on Page 5, Column 6, entitled "Listen, I am a Communist", signed by DON WEST, Kennesaw, Georgia.

Instant editorial quoted some questions directed to DON WEST, one of which was the question: "Is it not true that the Soviet Union made it possible for one of your family to visit the Soviet Union in 1943?"

RALPH MCGILL, Editor of the "Atlanta Constitution", in an editorial dated July 7, 1948 stated in part that DON WEST in a letter stated that the People's Institute of Applied Religion worked in Georgia in 1947 and put on a radio program called "Georgia Crisis". MCGILL stated that in instant letter WEST said he was going to make a contribution, not of the \$100 requested but of \$200 for this vital work.

Confidential Informant T-3 advised that IRVING GOFF, District Organizer, Communist Party, New Orleans, Louisiana, spent the night of June 9, 1948 at the home of DON WEST and that GOFF, while in Atlanta, attempted to contact HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party District Organizer for District No. 31, who was not in Atlanta at the time, but did meet with EUDICE TOITAK.

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that on June 10, 1948 GOFF obtained a cash refund from the Southern Railroad in Atlanta for the unused portion of a railroad ticket, that this ticket was a round-trip ticket from New Orleans to New York City and return and was purchased May 31, 1948 in New Orleans for use on June 1, 1948. T-4 stated that GOFF was assigned Seat No. 52, Car S-4 on the Southern Railroad for this trip to New York City, and that the return portion from New York City to New Orleans was not used. T-4 advised that GOFF gave his address as 2218 Abundance Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

T-2 advised that HOMER BATES CHASE contacted subject at his home, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, on July 7, 1948 at about 12:00 noon and was observed talking with WEST at 1:10 PM on instant date at WEST'S farm, Route 4, Douglasville.

Special Agents LEWIS S. DABNEY and DAN A. BRANT on May 2, 1948 at Savannah, Georgia observed the subject at 1:05 PM, at which time two white men were seen leaving the First Congregational Church, corner of Habersham and East Taylor Streets in Savannah, Georgia, in a black 1942 sedan, believed to be an Oldsmobile, bearing 1948 Georgia tag E71-791. The files of the State of Georgia Automobile Registration Bureau reflect that 1948 Georgia License E71-791 was issued to Mrs. H. G. EUBANKS, 307 Candlor Road, SE, Atlanta, Georgia.

T-3 advised that DONALD L. WEST told him he was going to contact Reverend HOMER C. McEWIN, Pastor of the First Congregational Church, corner of Houston and Courtland Streets, Atlanta, on May 25, 1948 and was to take McEWIN to Dalton, Georgia in reference to contacting C. T. PRATT concerning the Wallace-for-President movement in Atlanta.

Confidential Informant T-5 advised that the subject met Reverend HOMER C. McEWIN at 12:40 PM at the First Congregational Church, corner of Houston and Courtland Streets, Atlanta, and proceeded toward Dalton, Georgia.

T-3 advised that subject has met with the following individuals on numerous occasions during the past three months:

JACK LORENZ, JR., Emory University student
ROBERT G. ARMSTRONG, 50 Chestnut Street, SW, Atlanta,
professor at Atlanta University
EUDICE TONTAK, 644 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta,
Social Worker for Jewish Welfare
WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD, CIO Organizer for United
Public Workers of America
SAM WILLIAMS, 863 $\frac{1}{2}$ Fair Street, SW, Chairman of the
People's New Party of Georgia
JOE GROSS and GLORIA GROSS, 199 12th Street, NE,
Atlanta. JOSEPH GROSS is a member at large of the
People's New Party of Georgia
ROSELTNE SMITH, Parkway Drive, Atlanta

Confidential Informant T-6 advised that the subject told him that he had gotten in touch with ISIAH JONATHAN DOMAS, former Pastor of the Unitarian-Universalist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, LEO RICHARD COHEN, 1109 East Rock Springs Road, NE, Atlanta, JACK LORENZ, Emory University student, and told them they should listen to the speech of HENRY WALLACE to be broadcast on the night of March 25, 1948.

T-6 further advised that HOMER FATES CHASE met with the subject and EUDICE TONTAK at the home of EUDICE TONTAK on March 28, 1948 at 644 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta.

T-3 stated that ISIAH J. DOMAS had received a letter from PAUL NEWMAN of Jackson, Mississippi on March 25, 1948 and that instant letter was as follows:

"I am writing to request that you write a letter of recommendation for Mr. DON WEST for the position of president of Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio. The president of this school recently resigned and the board of trustees are now considering applicants for the job. As an alumnus of Antioch, I sent in DON WEST'S name. DON WEST is willing to accept the job if appointed and I am sure you will agree that he would make a wonderful contribution to education if he gets the job. Please address communications to Mr. ARTHUR E. MORGAN, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio."

T-3 stated that DOMAS had written to Antioch College in response to NEWMAN'S letter.. Informant advised that the following is a copy of instant letter:

"This letter is by way of enthusiastically endorsing the candidacy of my very good friend, DON WEST, for the presidency of Antioch. DON has, as you know, been in close contact with the Unitarian Assn. for many years, his most significant contribution being last summer's work camp for Unitarian youth, he conducted on his personal property in north Georgia. JOHN FINDLEY tells me that the outcome of this connection exceeded our Service Committee's fondest expectations. Since assuming the pastorate of this church, I have had every kind of opportunity to evaluate DON'S effectiveness, both on and off the campus of Oglethorpe. The _____ indicates that both the students and his innumerable townspeople friends just about worship the ground he walks. To characterize DON as think and sage is putting it mildly. DON is determined, at any cost, to remain in Georgia. His friends on the other hand are equally determined that, great as his loss would be to the local liberal scene, he be afforded opportunity to increase the scope of his effectiveness from some such nationwide vantage point as Antioch. In the long run, both Georgia and the world would be better benefited by the move perhaps. Trust to see you in Boston and of course the AUA meeting. Cordially - P. S. We ran an ad in the local pressblock Saturday, including your picture and your statement as to why you are a Unitarian. A lack and a laugh and a half dozen good people residing one hundred miles distance came hot-footing into town the next morning in the

expectation that you were going to hold forth. The previous week we featured RALPH WALDO EMERSON".

Informant further advised that DOMAS had received a letter from JOHN FINDLEY, a portion of which is as follows:

"Thanks for your good letter about DON WEST. From what I know about the reprojected move from Blairsville to Douglasville I thoroughly approve. The new site sounds like a good one. What's happened to DON WEST is a crime. A good long chapter could and should be added to UPTON SINCLAIR'S The Goose Step. As far as the AUA making use of him is concerned, I don't see any possibility at the present time. If you have any ideas on the subject, however, I'd be very much interested in hearing about them. I hope to be able to get down to Atlanta by mid-April. It will be nice to get together and have a good session."

Confidential Informant T-11 advised that the Unitarian Work Camp had been set up on the Old Eph Butler Farm, where WEST was now living, and that it was his understanding there was going to be a number of college students from all over the country attend this work camp to be operated by DONALD LEE WEST.

T-6 advised that subject, when questioned by local newspaper reporters, denied being a member of the Communist Party and told them that anybody connected with the Wallace Movement can be expected to be branded as a Communist.

T-6 stated that ROBERT YOUNG of Emory University had inaugurated a Wallace-for-President club and that the club had adopted a resolution which urged that Emory University discontinue segregation and that DON WEST told informant that each Wallace-for-President group had the right to act on any local issues they saw fit and it was in keeping with the Wallace Movement against discrimination and Jim Crow segregation.

T-6 stated that ISIAH J. DOMAS, who had a number of good contacts at Harvard University, was contemplating obtaining a teaching position at Harvard University for himself and DONALD LEE WEST. T-3 advised, however, that DOMAS has made no definite plans in reference to the obtaining of instant positions at this time and that DON WEST preferred to stay in Georgia.

T-6 further advised that Subject DON WEST at the present time was having numerous financial difficulties.

T-3 said that DONALD LEE WEST attended a Farmers Union meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on April 18, 1948 and returned to Atlanta, Georgia on April 19, 1948.

T-3 stated that DONALD WEST said he was going to attempt to start a work camp this summer, which would be an educational project for the purpose of training farm leaders for positions in farm unions and that he hoped to get assistance from the Unitarians along this line so that they would pay him a salary for the next couple of years. WEST advised informant that he was going to develop this camp about fifteen or twenty miles out of Atlanta on the river at Douglasville, Georgia as it would be necessary for him to become self-employed as long as he remained in politics. Informant advised that WEST met with JOSEPH GROSS, who is connected with one of the Jewish Welfare Associations in Atlanta, concerning this and that GROSS advised WEST that his organization did not sponsor youth camps.

T-6 stated that EUDICE TONTAK attended the National Conference for Social Workers in New York City in April and that upon her return on April 26, 1948 had met with DONALD L. WEST. Informant advised that EUDICE TONTAK brought some material from an individual named "JANET" who was working for the National Probation Parole to WEST, and that at this meeting WEST told TONTAK that he had given the keynote address in North Carolina on April 25, 1948 for the Third Party Convention, and that WEST stated they had only two hundred sixteen delegates and that things were not progressing as well as they should.

T-6 advised that JOHN TEAGER from Boston, Massachusetts, visited DONALD L. WEST and stayed with him on April 6, 1948. Informant stated that he was not acquainted with TEAGER, or the reason for his visit with DONALD L. WEST.

The "Southern Farmer" dated April, 1948, which is published by AUBREY WILLIAMS, reflected that DONALD LEE WEST had written an article which appeared in this paper along the lines of an autobiography of DON WEST and his family and their hardships as southerners, a portion of which read as follows:

"That is why I never fall for the line of the 'city slicker' newspaper boys' tales about the so-called 'wool hat boys' being responsible for prejudice and hate peddling. I know that it is not really the great farm working folks, BUT THE 'SILK HAT BOYS' OF WALL STREET (capital letters indicate raised letters in instant article), who direct the policy and campaigns

of our southern political demagogues. Their little game is to keep the common folk fighting and prejudiced against each other--the old Hitler line of 'divide and conquer'."

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

T-3 advised that WEST told him that the following individuals were very strong pro-WALLACE people:

Mr. and Mrs. JOSEPH ALBERT, Box 563, Chamblee, Georgia
Dr. and Mrs. I. J. GLAZER, 511 East Pelham Road, NE,
Atlanta, Georgia
Mr. and Mrs. RICHARD NAIMAN, 1073 Atlantic Drive, NW,
Atlanta, Georgia
Dr. SAM SEITZ, Lawson General Hospital, Chamblee, Georgia

The "Atlanta Constitution" dated April 12, 1948 reflected that DONALD L. WEST is Executive Vice Chairman of the Georgia Wallace-for-President Committee and that Miss BRANSON PRICE of Greensboro, North Carolina, is attached to the committee's headquarters at 85 Alexander Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia, where she was sent by the National Wallace-for-President Committee to work with the Georgia group. Instant article further reflected that MARY WATKINS PRICE, sister of BRANSON PRICE, was connected with the Wallace-for-President group in North Carolina.

T-6 advised that DON WEST told him on April 6, 1948 that there had been 10,000 copies of State Calls for the State convention for the People's New Party of Georgia to be held May 8, 1948, Macon, Georgia, sent throughout the State and that he expected at least 1000 people to attend this convention. Informant said that WEST told him that the Calls referred to set forth the purpose of the convention was for the founding of a new people's progressive party in support of HENRY WALLACE and GLEN TAYLOR and that the plans at this time were in the embryonic stage concerning congressional candidates and that they had not discussed Mrs. HELEN DOUGLAS MANKIN as a candidate in view of the fact that she was for universal military training and the draft which was not in keeping with the Wallace platform.

T-6 advised that BRANSON PRICE went to Chicago, Illinois on Friday, April 9, 1948, and attended the meeting held at the national headquarters of the Wallace-for-President group and that the subject

was unable to go to instant meeting because he was not financially able at this time. Informant advised that WEST and PRICE met on April 7, 1948 prior to PRICE'S going to instant meeting and that subject requested PRICE to explain to C. B. BALDWIN, HENRY WALLACE'S campaign manager, the reason why he, WEST, was unable to attend instant meeting.

Confidential Informant T-7 advised that the subject met with AUBREY WILLIAMS at the Biltmore Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia on April 11, 1948.

T-3 stated that ESTHER HUNTER, wife of FLOYD HUNTER, attended a Wallace-for-President meeting at the home of Mrs. HENRY RICH, 651 Cumberland Circle, NE, Atlanta, on the night of May 10, 1948. Mrs. HUNTER advised informant that there had been about forty people at instant meeting, a number of whom had never come out for WALLACE before.

T-6 stated that BRANSON PRICE and DON WEST met on April 14, 1948 after PRICE had returned from her trip to Chicago and that PRICE told WEST that LARKIN MARSHALL did not attend instant meeting and that the only other person from Atlanta, Georgia who had attended instant meeting was FLOYD HUNTER, who had arrived quite late but had attended some of the meetings. Informant advised that PRICE stated that she was attempting to work out a deal with the state of Pennsylvania so that they would adopt Georgia and give them financial assistance and that she had talked to C. B. BALDWIN about the trade union and BALDWIN had told her that he would attempt to get PALMER WEBBER to leave the PAC and work for the southern states with the trade union and that she had also arranged to have GLEN TAYLOR appear as the keynote speaker on May 8, 1948 at Macon, Georgia for the founding convention of the People's New Party of Georgia.

T-3 stated that WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD and DON WEST met on April 15, 1948 and arranged for a conference to be held on April 16, 1948 at 85 Alexander Street, at which BRANSON PRICE, STAFFORD and the subject would be present. Informant advised that WEST told STAFFORD that JOSEPH RABUN, a candidate for the governorship of Georgia, had written a letter concerning the dangers of Federal bureaucracy and such things as the civil rights issue and that the letter sounded to WEST like the typical southern governors who were bollyaching about Federal interference in State rights issues. Informant advised that WEST and STAFFORD agreed that things were not progressing fast enough and that the big trouble seemed to be lack of finances. T-3 stated that the subject and WILLIAM STAFFORD met at the Wallace-for-President headquarters, 85 Alexander Street, on April 26, 1948. Informant did not attend instant meeting.

Confidential Informant T-8 said DONALD LEE WEST, WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD and BRANSON PRICE were at the Wallace-for-President Headquarters, 85 Alexander Street, Atlanta, Georgia, on the afternoon of April 26, 1948. WEST, STAFFORD and PRICE proceeded to the Old Post Office and carried in certain pieces of mail which were being sent out to call the delegates for the Third Party Convention at Macon, Georgia. T-8 stated that BRANSON PRICE left the group and a short time later DONALD LEE WEST and WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD were contacted by HOMER BATES CHASE and drove off together in WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD'S automobile.

T-7 advised that after CHASE had left DONALD LEE WEST that WEST contacted Reverend JOE RABUN, independent gubernatorial candidate, and they had a discussion, at which time WEST advised RABUN that there were a number of things that he, WEST, and the WALLACE people would like to talk to RABUN about, including the INGRAM case, the Klan, Black Raiders, and the need for someone to do something about it. Informant advised that WEST said to RABUN that the WALLACE people and RABUN all agreed on the same issues and he would like to have RABUN meet with the WALLACE people. Informant advised that RABUN told WEST that HOMER BATES CHASE had called on him at Valdosta on April 23, 1948 and that they had had a nice talk. Informant advised that WEST told RABUN that he had met CHASE, and he advised RABUN that the WALLACE group would go along with him since they had so many views in common, and that he believed RABUN would have a good chance to win even if he were defeated in the primary because petitions could be issued for the general election in November when only TALMADGE and RABUN would be on the ballot.

Informant advised that after WEST and RABUN had their discussion WEST met BRANSON PRICE at the Wallace-for-President Headquarters at 85 Alexander Street, and told her that he had contacted RABUN, and RABUN was very favorable toward his, WEST'S, suggestion, and that he planned to talk to RABUN about RABUN'S running in the November election in addition to the primary. WEST thought the WALLACE group would have to come to an agreement with RABUN by the convention date, May 8, 1948. T-7 advised that BRANSON PRICE thought that RABUN would make a good candidate.

Confidential Informant T-9 advised that DON WEST was elected Executive Vice Chairman at Macon, Georgia on May 8, 1948, for the People's New Party of Georgia and that he was also named as an elector of District No. 7 for instant party.

Confidential Informant T-10 advised that subject parked his red jeep, Georgia License No. AP7145B, across the street from 721 Parkway Drive, the residence of WILLIAM ROY and ROSPLINE SMITH on May 10, 1948, and left with HOMER BATES CHASE in CHASE'S automobile and drove toward Stone Mountain.

T-7 advised that HOMER BATES CHASE and DONALD LEE WEST met on May 10, 1948 and drove in CHASE'S automobile out to Stone Mountain, where the two of them had a talk.

Informant said later on that evening CHASE got together with DONALD LEE WEST concerning the statement made by JOE RABUN to the local Atlanta papers to the effect that he, RABUN, will continue to maintain his position as a liberal democrat independent of any group or faction, receiving the support of all the citizens of Georgia in the Democratic Primary of September 8, 1948. RABUN stated there was much more reason for the gradual liberalization of the Democratic Party and that he considered some of the actions of the New Party ill-advised although he could speak only as an observer. Informant advised that CHASE told WEST that in his mind that actually left BARFOOT as a nominee for the gubernatorial candidate for the People's New Party of Georgia. T-7 said that CHASE told WEST that they should act immediately in reference to this nomination, and that he should contact L. MARSHALL and C. T. PRATT in Dalton at once and endeavor to call the people together by Saturday, May 22, 1948, and issue a group statement.

Informant T-7 advised that WEST stated that in his position as Executive Vice Chairman he did not feel that he was being consulted enough by BRANSON PRICE and others, and that BRANSON PRICE was trying to run everything. WEST stated that if he was going to have the title of Executive Vice Chairman and have his title stuck on letterheads that he was going to exercise the authority of that office. T-7 advised that CHASE told WEST that within a day or so he would straighten it out. CHASE stated that in his opinion nothing should be done in reference to JOE RABUN at the present time, and it should be on the basis of the New Party would be glad to work with anyone on issues that benefit the people, and that the Party should not let RABUN provoke them in any way.

Informant T-6 stated that WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD of the United Public Workers of America met with DON WEST shortly after HOMER BATES CHASE contacted him on the night of May 11, 1948, at which time WEST advised STAFFORD that RABUN had issued a statement to the paper to the effect that he was going to run in the Democratic Primary and was not going to run on the New Party platform, as the New Party had taken some ill-advised steps and he, RABUN, believes in evolution and not revolution. WEST stated that RABUN was referring to MARSHALL'S nomination when he made this statement, and that he had felt all along that RABUN would do this, but that the New Party would come out on the winning side of the thing and that they had given RABUN a chance to speak for himself at the Macon convention. WEST also stated that he was not going to give RABUN any consideration other than the fact that they would work with him on

certain issues if they should arise, and that there was no other alternative now to his belief but that JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT would be automatically nominated. WEST stated that he thought the meeting of the State Committee should be on Saturday, which would be the first meeting after the convention, and that it was decided at the convention that RABUN or BARFOOT would be decided on in a period of ten days after the convention as to which of the two would be the gubernatorial nominee. WEST stated that he had discussed this matter with some of his friends and that they were also of the opinion that this would be valid, but that he should contact MARSHALL and PRATT and confer with them.

T-7 also advised that WEST complained to WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD that BRANSON PRICE was trying to run things and he was not being consulted. He told him that if he had the title of Executive Vice Chairman that he was going to exercise the authority, that BRANSON PRICE is a representative of the National Office and had no authority on the State Executive Board and no authority to call a board meeting or anything else. He thought it was a mistake to let her run the Board as well as the office, and on matters of decision, he, WEST did not think that they should even assume that she needs to be consulted. The Board should make the decisions and then tell her that this is what the Board believes, and not to assume in the beginning that she has a right to say when the Board meets or anything else. WEST stated that there is a great deal of need to work closer together for more cooperation all the way around, and that he was tired of not being consulted. T-6 advised STAFFORD told WEST he had never in any way, shape or form excluded WEST from any consultation, and that WEST was picking out one little thing in question that they were in doubt as to what to do, and that there was not any necessity to consult him at all; and that he, STAFFORD, was a great believer in consulting and that he would continue to consult everybody. STAFFORD said that they should get everything all set up and the petitions ready, and that he was quite in accord with WEST that they did not need a lieutenant governor and that they would have their hands full with the gubernatorial candidate and the candidate for U. S. Senator. STAFFORD stated that somebody had gone to L. MARSHALL and practically persuaded him to decline the nomination until STAFFORD and his group had spoken to him, and that he, STAFFORD, would not object if BRANSON PRICE left, that even if she was talking about leaving they could find someone else, and that they should fight for the convention decision in reference to the BARFOOT gubernatorial nomination.

T-7 advised that DONALD LEE WEST told him that he had contacted Reverend C. T. PRATT and LARKIN MARSHALL on May 11, 1948, and advised them of RABUN'S decision not to run on the New Party ticket, and also invited PRATT and MARSHALL to attend a meeting in Atlanta at 2:30, Saturday, the 22d,

in reference to instant nomination but that they would go ahead and put BARFOOT'S name on the nomination petition at once. WEST advised that both PRATT and MARSHALL gave their OK to go ahead and put BARFOOT'S name down as the nominee.

Informant T-7 advised that WEST told him that J. WESLEY DOBBS had contributed \$50 to the Party and also told him that he would personally help circulate the petition, and that WEST was quite perturbed because there were only fifty-seven people from Macon attending the convention.

Informant T-6 advised that WEST contacted WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD on May 11, 1948, and advised him that both PRATT and MARSHALL had agreed that RABUN'S statement automatically left BARFOOT as the nominee, and that the State meeting would be held on the 22d of May.

Informant T-7 advised that WEST told him that he had been asked by PRATT to be keynote speaker at the People's New Party of Georgia meeting to be held in Dalton, Georgia on June 29, 1948 and that he was going to attempt to get WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD to go with him.

T-7 advised that there was an article printed in the "Atlanta Journal" for May 13, 1948, which stated that JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT, Wallace Party proposed gubernatorial candidate for Georgia, had been fired from his position at the University of Georgia, and that the University had cancelled the contract with the State Educational Film Service, called the "Southern Educational Film Production Service", following student charges that Communist literature was being distributed at a Wallace-for-President meeting. Informant advised that HOMER BATES CHASE had consulted DON WEST in reference to instant article and advised him that someone should draw up a statement and attempt to get twenty or twenty-five leading intellectual and professional people of Atlanta to sign it, protesting on the basis of academic freedom, and that they did not think BARFOOT should be fired. CHASE stated that these people should not necessarily be WALLACE supporters, and it should indicate that the signing of instant letter did not necessarily mean that they were for or against WALLACE. CHASE stated that this article indicated that they were going to "red bait" no matter what it was about, and he believed that in view of the fact that DON WEST was a professor himself that he should issue the statement and also should endeavor to tie the press release in with what TRILLADGE had done to the reputation of the Georgia University. Informant advised that CHASE and WEST were to meet later on in the evening of May 13, 1948 to fully discuss this matter.

Informant T-7 stated that WEST, after a discussion with CHASE, got in touch with gubernatorial candidate BARFOOT and told BARFOOT that he was going to work on a press release to be given in reference to BARFOOT'S release and the cancelling of the contract of the Southern Educational Film Production Service. WEST stated that at this time it was his idea that they should be on the offensive in reference to this particular article and not on the defensive, and it is his belief that it is BARFOOT'S business and he had a right to have TALMADGE material or Communist material or whatever he had at his meeting and had a right as a man to study all points of view, and that he was going to have a meeting in a few minutes to take it up with the people he intended to meet with. WEST advised it might be wise to get a mailing list of clubs and committees and get wires and letters out to them, and arranged to contact BARFOOT at a later time that evening. BARFOOT advised that he wanted to get something else in the papers immediately before they went to press, and that from the way the University was acting they were joining hands with the pro-Talmadge Hitlerite tactics, and that he intended to be on the offensive and strike back at them for trying to cover their denial of academic freedom by a red smear campaign as they had gotten frightened at the real people's movement, and in their frantic haste to cover up they had resorted to this Hitlerite tactic. BARFOOT stated he believed it would be better if he issued the first statement in view of the fact that it had been an attack upon him rather than WEST as Executive Vice Chairman of the New People's Party. T-7 furnished a copy of the following incomplete draft made by BARFOOT:

"In their frantic effort to cover up their flagrant denial of academic freedom, John Simms, and apparently other high University officials, have joined hands with John Rogers, pro-Talmadge former Highway Patrolman, to conduct a red smear campaign against me because I dared to be a candidate for Governor with the People Progressive Party. This is a threadbare tactic originated by Adolf Hitler for the purpose of discrediting those liberals and progressives who have the courage to stand up for the people."

BARFOOT advised this was an incomplete rough draft and that he intended to add to it.

Informant T-7 advised that later on the same evening after WEST had met with HOMER BATES CHASE, DON WEST issued a press release to the Atlanta papers which stated in part:

"We believe that the people of Georgia will rally to Mr. Barfoot's defense and the defense of the University. The fact that the contract with the Southern Film Production Service has been terminated is further evidence of the similarity of the purge of Dr. COCKING and others under the Talmadge regime which discredited and almost destroyed our University System".

Informant T-7 advised that on the following day, May 14, 1948, WEST sent the following telegram to President HERMAN CALDWELL of the University of Georgia:

"As a native Georgian and former student of the University of Georgia interested in the future progress of education I am shocked by your hasty action in dismissing Prof. James L. Barfoot. There has been no previous criticism of Professor Barfoot's work. He is listed in the summer school bulletin. The evident reason for this sudden dismissal can only be expressed by Dean Aderhold because of his political activities. Georgians remember with shame the Cocking affair and the University losing its accredited standing. This Barfoot incident sets a dangerous precedent if left uncorrected. If such a course is followed it means no teacher will be secure from thought control pressure. Therefore I strongly urge you as President of the University to correct this gross miscarriage of justice and denial of academic freedom."

Informant T-6 advised that WEST had prepared a letter addressed to President CALDWELL which was to be mimeographed for people's signatures and sent to President CALDWELL. Informant T-6 advised that instant letter read as follows:

"As Georgia citizens who are interested in the future progress of Georgia education and guaranteeing of academic freedom in our state schools we have been shocked by the seeming hasty action of University of Georgia officials in dismissing Professor James L. Barfoot from its faculty. There have been no previous criticisms of Professor James L. Barfoot's performance of his academic duties. He is listed in the University's summer school bulletin. The evident reason for his sudden dismissal to become effective in June is expressed in a letter by the Dean of the College of Education - his political activities. We remember with shame the firing of Dr. Cocking and others in the former period when our University lost its accredited standing and was almost

destroyed. We firmly believe in the principles of academic freedom and uphold the rights of a professor to espouse whatever political belief he may see fit. We think the Bar-foot incident, if left uncorrected, sets a dangerous precedent. If such a course is followed generally, no teacher or public official will be secure. We therefore strongly urge that you, as President of the University, use your high office to correct this gross miscarriage of justice and denial of academic freedom."

Informant T-6 advised that WEST discussed the above mentioned letter with BRANSON PRICE at the Wallace Party Headquarters, and PRICE stated that she would cut a stencil on it and would endeavor to get some professional people to sign it.

T-6 advised that DONALD LEE WEST, Executive Vice Chairman of the People's New Party of Georgia, gave a speech over Radio Station WAGA, Atlanta, Georgia, at 8:15 on the night of May 20, 1948. Informant stated that EUDICE TONTAK, ROBERT ARMSTRONG, SAM WILLIAMS and BILL STAFFORD aided WEST in preparation of instant speech. WEST in his speech decried the nation's policy in reference to the Palestine problem, stated that Mr. WALLACE said the USA and the USSR must take immediate action to end the cold war, and asked for general reduction of armaments and the defeat of the Mundt-Nixon Bill. WEST during instant speech stated that our nation's policy in Palestine can only be laid to the old feudal Arab monarchy and laws in that region, and that in reference to the China civil war we were throwing billions of dollars down the drain to support one of the most corrupt dictatorships on the face of the earth - CHIANG KAI-SHEK. In his speech, concerning the Mundt-Nixon Bill, WEST stated that on the surface this was a bill to outlaw the Communist Party, but in principle it had been borrowed from the laws passed by Hitler Germany in 1933, and was to prevent any expression by the American people of their opposition to the war policies of the present administration.

T-3 said that PALMER WEBBER came to Atlanta, Georgia, on June 17, 1948, in reference to the Third Party movement, and in connection with his visit EUDICE TONTAK got in touch with DON WEST in an effort to determine whether or not WEBBER had come to Atlanta in an effort to change their position concerning the gubernatorial nominee. Informant T-3 advised that WEST did not know the reason for WEBBER'S coming to Atlanta at the time he discussed it with TONTAK, but it was decided that they both would go along with the convention decision concerning the nomination. T-3 advised that TONTAK stated that she had gotten a couple of the open letters concerning the BARFOOT incident signed, and had discussed this letter with Dr. LOUIE NEWTON, Baptist Minister, Atlanta, Georgia, and Dr. NEWTON was quite friendly and sympathetic but would not sign the letter

because he believed the angle was simply one phase of the political mess that the University is in.

Informant T-3 advised on June 16, 1948 that BILL STAFFORD consulted with DON WEST and both agreed it would be all right to get notices out for a state board meeting of the People's New Party of Georgia to be held on June 26, 1948. Informant advised that STAFFORD advised both men had a discussion concerning PAUL ROBESON'S coming to Atlanta and that STAFFORD intended to take it up with EUDICE TONTAK and SAM WILLIAMS of the Atlanta Committee of the People's New Party in an effort to raise sufficient money to have ROBESON'S meeting broadcast. Informant advised that WEST indicated that he would like to have the group nominate someone to take his place as Executive Vice Chairman and reduce him to the Atlanta Committee as he was very busy and might be leaving the state next September. Informant advised that BILL STAFFORD was opposed to this.

Informant T-3 advised that RALPH MCGILL, Editor of the "Atlanta Constitution", had written an article in the June 18, 1948 paper entitled "Don West and the Wallace Campaign", which stated in effect that DON WEST was a Communist. Informant advised that WEST, after reading instant article, stated that this was MCGILL'S old "Communist rod baiting stuff again" and he would immediately meet with WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD in reference to instant column. STAFFORD at instant meeting told WEST that he had discussed instant column with BRANSON PRICE and BARFOOT at the Wallace-for-President Headquarters and a few other people who were there, and that they all agreed that they should not take that kind of thing seriously and the main purpose of a column like that was to get the group to stop doing their work and start trying to defend themselves. STAFFORD stated that as far as any official statement was concerned they would ignore it, but that several of them would write individual letters blasting MCGILL for being the worst kind of yellow journalist, and that he believed WEST in discussing it with his students should use instant article as a fine object lesson of the Mundt Bill psychology in the way that the smarm business operates. STAFFORD stated that they would suggest to different people to write letters and he would write one himself. Informant advised after STAFFORD and WEST'S meeting, DON WEST then contacted BRANSON PRICE and BRANSON PRICE agreed that some letters should be written to MCGILL pointing out errors in his column. Informant advised WEST was perturbed because he believed this column was hurting him with the people he was teaching because they did not understand all the issues.

T-5 advised that the New People's Party of Georgia held an anti-Klan demonstration on the lawn of the State Capitol, Atlanta, Georgia, on

July 19, 1948, at which time EUDICE TONTAK acted as master of ceremonies. T-5 advised that the invocation was given by Reverend GRANT, a colored minister, and the principal talk was given by JAMES L. BARFOOT, gubernatorial candidate, who gave a violent anti-Klan talk. T-5 further stated that benediction was given by Reverend WILLIAMS, a colored minister, and that WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD made a speech criticizing the Klan, as well as the Democratic and Republican parties. T-5 advised there were approximately twenty-five people in attendance, and that there were several posters captioned "Fight the Klan", "Free the Ingrams", and "Sign our Petition". T-5 stated that DONALD LEE WEST was present at instant meeting but did not participate actively at instant meeting. T-5 stated that WILLIAM ROY SMITH'S Army carryall had brought the public address speaking equipment to instant meeting.

T-2 advised that HOMER BATES CHASE drove by instant meeting place at 8:15 PM but did not stop at the meeting.

The "Atlanta Constitution" dated July 31, 1948 reflected that DONALD LEE WEST was named as National Committeeman for the Progressive Party from the State of Georgia.

T-2 advised that DONALD LEE WEST attended the Third Party convention held at Philadelphia and at instant convention introduced JAMES L. BARFOOT, gubernatorial candidate for the New People's Party of Georgia for a radio address.

The "Atlanta Constitution" reflected that subject left Dalton, Georgia July 22, 1948 via a private plane to attend the Third Party convention, at which time he was accompanied by Reverend C. T. PRATT, LARKIN MARSHALL, JAMES L. BARFOOT and JACK LORENZ.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

Mundt-Nixon Bill

T-6 stated on May 1, 1948 that DON WEST had received a telegram from C. B. BALDWIN, in charge of the Third Party Movement in New York on a nation scale, advising him that the final text of the Mundt Bill was not available, but it was going to be brought to the floor of the House during the coming week, and that urgent wires and letters should be sent to Congress immediately asking that they appear before the Rules Committee to oppose reporting the bill to the House and demanding they vote against this un-American and unconstitutional legislation when it comes before the House.

Informant advised that again on May 13, 1948 the National Headquarters of the Wallace-for-President Movement advised that the Mundt Bill was being postponed and that letters and wires should be continued to be forwarded and efforts made to have week end visits with Congressmen whenever possible. Informant advised that on May 14, 1948 BRANSON PRICE had received two wires in reference to the Mundt Bill from the National Headquarters which she had shortened and sent to various people in Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-6 advised on May 17, 1948 HOMER BATES CHASE instructed WEST that he should endeavor to get someone to telephone twenty-five or thirty prominent people in Atlanta to try to get them to put through individual telephone calls to Representative DAVIS against the Mundt Bill. CHASE stated that there would be no Wallace Movement if they passed the Mundt Bill without a fight, that the Third Party in New Orleans was doing an awful lot more and this was right in line with the National Office of the Third Party. CHASE advised that things were real tough in Alabama, and that they were intimidating Third Party people there as well as in South Carolina. CHASE suggested to WEST that he take the matter of the Mundt Bill calls up with Third Party Headquarters, which WEST agreed to do.

Confidential Informant T-12 stated in reference to information furnished by T-6 to the effect that HOMER CHASE had instructed DONALD LEE WEST to get people contact Congressman DAVIS, that Congressman DAVIS had received on or about May 17, 1948 a petition from the Wallace supporters in Georgia in opposition to the Mundt-Nixon Bill.

T-3 said JACK LORENZ met DONALD LEE WEST and told him that he had formed an Atlanta Citizens Committee against the Mundt Bill and that he, JAMES LEMAR BARFOOT, EUDICE TOMLAK, Dr. TOM JONES and R. J. STAUVERMAN were going to Washington, DC, in BARFOOT'S station wagon to protest the Mundt Bill.

Informant advised on June 18, 1948 that WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD stated that they were passing out hand bills at various mills around Atlanta, Georgia, including the Fulton Bag, Atlantic Steel, and Exposition Mills, announcing the coming of PAUL ROBESON to Atlanta, and that they had run into trouble at the Exposition Mill on the night of June 17, 1948 when the guard told them that they could not distribute the leaflets on company property, but they had continued to distribute them down by the sidewalk near the car stop.

In the "Atlanta Journal", Atlanta, Georgia, on June 2, 1948, and the "Macon Telegraph", Macon, Georgia, on June 8, 1948, there appeared a paid ad entitled "Mundt Bill is Aimed at Your Freedom". It is noted that this ad was carried as a paid political advertisement by the Communist Party of Georgia, HOMER B. CHASE, State Organizer, Post Office Box 4836, Atlanta, Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-3 further advised that on May 20, 1948 DONALD LEE WEST, Executive Vice Chairman of the People's New Party of Georgia, gave a speech over Radio Station WAGA in Atlanta, Georgia. The latter portion of this speech dealt with the Mundt-Nixon Bill, and in this speech WEST requested his listeners to telegraph or telephone Senator RUSSELL or Senator GEORGE expressing the listeners' opposition to the Mundt Bill which would destroy the freedom of all people.

RELIGION

People's Institute of Applied Religion

T-7 advised that on Saturday, May 22, 1948 DONALD LEE WEST accompanied Reverend ARCHER TORREY to Birmingham, Alabama, and attended a meeting of the People's Institute of Applied Religion. ARCHER TORREY is a close associate of WEST and HOMER BATES CHASE, and was named as a vice chairman of the Georgia Wallace-for-President Committee at the statewide convention held in Macon, Georgia, May 8, 1948.

Dr. T. M. BARNETT, 3609 Kingsboro Road, NE, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that Reverend I. J. DOMAS was pastor of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Atlanta, Georgia, and that DOMAS was a close associate of DONALD LEE WEST and of Reverend CLAUDE WILLIAMS of the People's Institute of Applied Religion, and that DOMAS was influential in having DONALD WEST join the Unitarian-Universalist Church, as well as ROBERT G. ARMSTRONG, teacher at Atlanta University, JACK LORENZ, JR., student at Oglethorpe University, WILLIAM GEORGE, a member of the American Civil Liberties Union, Mr. and Mrs. STILLMAN WILLIAMS, Miss COLYN BOVERS, ex-WAC and Recreational Director for the City of Decatur, Georgia, HARRY A. BROMLEY, SHIRLEY T. CAPPS, teacher in the Atlanta School System, PHILLIP G. HAMMER and JIMMY B. and JACK R. RAGSDALE. Dr. BARNETT advised he believed DOMAS was attempting to infiltrate the Unitarian-Universalist Church with Communists, that he believed this because DONALD LEE WEST at a meeting of the church was presented by Reverend DOMAS as a model for the church to emulate, and read from Mr. WEST'S book, and that DOMAS and WEST had

both spoken advocating the weakening of our national defense, and spoke of those who differ with them as Fascists and capitalists. BARNETT stated that when DOMAS was asked at a yearly business meeting whether or not he was a Communist sympathizer DOMAS refused to answer.

In reference to the group of people named by Dr. BARNETT, Mrs. ~~PHILLIP WILLIAMS~~ admitted in an interview with the "Atlanta Constitution", March 2, 1948, that she had been a former member of the Communist Party in 1937. T-7 advised that ROBERT G. ARMSTRONG is a frequent contact of DOMAS, HOMER BATES CHASE and DONALD LEE WEST and that EUDICE TONTAK was acquainted with PHILLIP G. HAMER. BARNETT advised that on May 7, 1948 the Unitarian-Universalist Church at Atlanta, Georgia had obtained DOMAS' resignation from the church. In reference to SHIRLEY T. CAPPS mentioned by Dr. BARNETT, the reporting agent observed from surveillance that she lives on the EPH BUTLER Farm, which is a Unitarian Work Camp on Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, where DONALD LEE WEST and family are residing at the present time.

Additional Background Regarding DONALD LEE WEST

Confidential Informant T-13 advised that his records reflect that on December 29, 1944 subject had been employed for two years as principal of the school at Lula, Georgia and did preaching on the side and that he was a member of the Baptist Church but his religious activities were not confined to the one sect. He was reported to be a member of the "Black Stocking" religious sect. T-13 stated that subject was connected with the Communist Party and had a brother and sister who had visited Russia to study the government there. The subject formerly taught in Cartersville, Georgia. He entered the race for representative to the State Legislature in 1943 but was defeated. T-13 stated that subject reportedly distributed pamphlets on the Communist Party to the lower and more illiterate element and the Negroes. Informant stated that subject reportedly wrote articles for the "Daily Worker", had published booklets in Birmingham, Alabama, and had a brother named RUDOLPH WEST who was a Communist Party member, also had two brothers-in-law who are connected with the Communist Party, one of whom had visited in Russia to learn more of the Communist work and teachings.

The following is background information concerning subject's wife, MABEL CONSTANCE WEST.

JOHN W. JONES, DeKalb County Police Department, advised that MABEL CONSTANCE WEST had taught the 5th and 6th grades in the Brookhaven

School and her record reflected she had taught at Roswell, Georgia 1946-47, Ringgold, Georgia 1945-46, Lula School, Lula, Georgia 1943-45 and Hindman Settlement School, Hindman, Kentucky 1930-41.

Confidential Informant T-14 advised that his records contain the following information concerning MABEL CONSTANCE ADAMS WEST:

Born	1/1/11, Corbin, Kentucky
Relatives	Father JACK J. ADAMS, mother LYDIA MARLOR ADAMS, husband DONALD LEE WEST
Education	Ellen M. Myres School, Harrogate, Tennessee (dates not given) Lincoln Memorial Academy, Harrogate, Tennessee (1923 to 1927) Lincoln Memorial University (September 1927 to July 1930) YWCA Graduate School, Blue Ridge, NC (Summer of 1928) Berea College, Berea, Kentucky (Summer school 1931) University of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky. (Summer of 1937) Oglethorpe University (fall of 1937; 1942 to 1944; summer school of 1944) Received A.B. Degree in Education August 1944 Brenau College, Gainesville, Georgia (Summer school of 1943) High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia (Summer of 1944) University of Georgia, Athens (1944 to 1947 - graduated 8/30/47 with Masters Degree in Education)
Addresses	Harrogate, Tennessee (1927 to 1930) Route 3, Cartersville, Georgia (1941-1942) Lula, Georgia, Box 64 (1942 and 1944) Ringgold, Georgia, Box 175 (1945) Blairsville, Georgia (1947)
Employment	Oglethorpe University, Georgia (1947) Teacher at the following schools: Hindman Settlement School, Hindman, Ky. (September 1930 to May 1933)

AT 100-559

Lula High School, Lula, Georgia
(September 1942 to May 1945)
Catoosa County Schools, Ringgold,
Georgia (September 1945 to May 1946)
Roswell School, Roswell, Georgia
September 1946 to February 1947)
Brookhaven School, Brookhaven, Georgia
(February 1947 to date)

-PENDING-

LEADS

Copies of this report are furnished to Birmingham, Savannah and New Orleans for information in view of subject's contacts and activities with individuals in their divisions.

NEW YORK DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NY

Pursuant to letter dated July 2, 1948 from the Atlanta Division, the New York Office is requested to obtain authenticated copies of issues of the "Daily Worker" as set forth where subject is noted as a member of the Communist Party and wrote instant poem entitled "I am a Communist". It will be noted that copies of the "Daily Worker" in 1934 state that instant paper was issued by the Communist Party and on the first page of instant copies is inscribed the hammer and sickle.

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT NASHVILLE, TENN.

Will determine activity of subject while he attended the Farmers Union Meeting in April 1948 and advise the Atlanta Division of any pertinent information.

ATLANTA DIVISION

AT ATLANTA, GA.

Will continue to follow and report activities of subject.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1 PAUL CROUCH, a former member of the Communist Party for approximately twenty years, who is presently living in the Miami Division.

T-2 SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR., who obtained information via surveillance, observation and via radio in reference to WEST'S being at convention in Philadelphia.

T-3 AT-1324.

T-4 SA CHRISTOPHER J. VIZAS.

T-5 SA PAUL F. TIERNEY.

T-6 AT-1324

T-7 AT-1324

T-8 Surveillance conducted by SA CHARLES T. HAYNES and SA PAUL F. TIERNEY.

T-9

[REDACTED]

T-10 Surveillance conducted by SA RICHARD R. HENDERSON, SA PAUL F. TIERNEY, CHARLES T. HAYNES and SA WILLIAM MASON FILMER.

T-11

[REDACTED]

Georgia. b7D

T-12

[REDACTED]

T-13

[REDACTED]

Retail Credit Company, Atlanta.

T-14

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED] who requested that his name be kept confidential.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office ATLANTA	Office of Origin ATLANTA	Date 10/27/48	Investigative Period 10/12,13,14,15-/48
Title of Case DONALD LEE WEST, was. Don Lee West, Don West, Reverend Donald L. West, Jim Webb, Jim Weaver		Report made by SA PAUL F. TIERNEY	Typed By: aej
		Character of Case INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

Investigative ^{SUMMARY} Report

SYNOPSIS: Daily Worker reflects the following: subject wrote poem "Listen, I Am A Communist" in 1934; fled Atlanta, Georgia, 1934 when sought on charges of inciting to insurrection; spoke at Boston, Mass. 1934 under auspices International Labor Defense demanding release of ERNEST THAELMANN; jailed 1935 Pineville, Kentucky for activities in connection with miners strike; subject on National Committee of C.P. in 1936 drive for election of BROWDER and FORD when subject was in Louisville, Kentucky; also listed as State Organizer of Workers Alliance of Kentucky and member of National Unemployed Committee for BROWDER and FORD in 1936; subject was present at reception to MAUDE WHITE, only Negro member Central Committee of C.P. at New York City 6/21/37; subject listed as Georgia born organizer of C.P. in Kentucky at the time. Confidential informant advises subject became a Communist in 1934 and was a member in 1945 and 1948. Subject continues to be a contact of HOMER BATES CHASE, C.P. District Organizer for Georgia.

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made:			
5 - Bureau			
3 - Atlanta (100-559)			
		100 - 22392 - 30	

Notations:

100-15680-128

[Handwritten Signature]

b6
b7c

AT 100-559

Other contacts set out. Subject presently residing on farm, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau file #100-20396.
Report of SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR. dated at Atlanta 6/12/47.
Report of SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR. dated at Atlanta 8/9/48.

RESIDENT ADDRESS AND OCCUPATION

Confidential Informant T-7 advises subject presently residing on the Old Eph Butler Farm, Route 4, nine miles outside of Douglasville, Georgia. Confidential Informant T-8 advised on

- 1-a -

Best Copy

AT 100-500

The following information was obtained from the subject at above farm is located and also located in a nearby clearing land in...

Subject was born Cartersville, Georgia, June 6, 1910, son of CLYDE... and... Subject's grandfather KIM... was also a native of Gilmer County, Georgia.

The following poem entitled "Listen, I Am A Communist" under the byline of D. H. BERT appeared on Page 5 of the Daily Worker under date of March 13, 1934. It is noted that the masthead of Instant Daily Worker is set up to read as follows:

DAILY WORKER

CLARENCE... (LISTEN, I AM A COMMUNIST BY D. H. BERT)

LISTEN, I AM
A COMMUNIST
By D. H. BERT

I am a Communist
A Red
A Bolsheviki
Do you, toolers of the South,
Kneel me,
do you understand?
Do you believe the lies
Capitalists say
And print about me?
You farmers,
Share croppers,
Renters,
Factory workers,
Negroes, poor whites,
Do you understand me,
Do you see
That I am you.
That I, the Communist,

Best Copy

AT 100-559

I am Ion 'ost, too,
The poet,
The working man.
But the poet
Is a cry for justice
The Communist is the tempered soul
Of a hundred million toilers
Marching to victory
A new world
A working man's world! . . .

I am the son
Of my grandfather.
His blood pounds thru
My veins, and cries out
For justice!
I am the poet
Who sings to the south
And she responds
With sobs of misery! . . .

I'm not foreign
No body
With calloused hands
Is foreign to us--
I'm Doc West
Raised on a Georgia farm--
The son of my mother
And a Communist . . .

That means
I want bread
And homes
And clothes
And love
And beauty
For all your hollow-eyed babies
I want songs on the lips
And joy in the eyes
Of your anxious mothers
Who scrub
And hoe
And weave in a factory.

Best Copy

AT 100-559

You toil-hardened man and woman,
Whose backs are twisted
Making profits for capitalists,
I am building a new world--
Yet not I,
But you--
WE!

For we are the Communists
Ye are the toilers. . . .

Did you ever hear of the
SOVIET UNION,
There our comrades
Have laid their burdens down
Have taken what was always theirs
And dismissed the loafers,
The Capitalists? . . .
They are calling us
To rise
To organize
To be free. . . .

And do you hear us? . . .
I'm speaking,
I, the poet,
Don't est
Communist,
Bolshevik,
Red. . . .
Working man
Southern toiler . . .
You will hear me
And you'll believe,
Because I am you,
You are me,
And
We--
Are power!

(Kennesaw, Ga.)

The Daily Worker, with masthead as described above for Monday June 11, 1934, contains a news item which reflects that subject TEST was in New York "following his escape from the Atlanta police and fascist gangs which have terrorized the negro and white workers neighborhoods in a frantic and bestial campaign"

AD 1. 2. 2

to stop the wild fire spread of revolutionary propaganda in the South." The article also tells us that on June 2, 1934 under the title of "The Case of J. Edgar Hoover" a similar case was filed in the District Court of the Southern District of New York. The article also tells us that they were out to "get J. Edgar Hoover." The article also tells us that J. Edgar Hoover, a Communist, was being sought on a charge of "inciting to insurrection." The article also tells us that J. Edgar Hoover told his story of a wild fire spread at the offices of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners at 156 5th Avenue, New York City, on June 10, 1934.

The Daily Worker, with masthead as previously referred to, under date of Thursday June 19, 1934, stated that BEN BERT, C. P. Organizer in the U. S., was present at an ANTI-IMPERIALIST protest mass meeting in a building high up the Bailey Square House in Boston, Massachusetts; that the meeting was under the auspices of the International Labor Defense and that the meeting would demand the release of J. Edgar Hoover.

The Daily Worker, with identical masthead previously referred to, under date of Friday November 2, 1935, contained a news item entitled, "A Communist Organizer in Court." This article under date line Pineville, Kentucky October 22, is quoted as follows: "WILLIAM LEE and J. L. ... members of the United Mine Workers of America were remanded to jail under \$5,000.00 peace bond by Judge J. L. ... following the collapse last Friday of the original charges against the two defendants of 'aiding and abetting' based on their activities in the strike of miners here. The court room was crowded with miners who had turned out to protest the attempted frame-up of their fellow trade unionists. With the collapse of the original charges the prosecution induced four persons to swear out a peace warrant alleging threats against them by ... and ... Although under cross examination by the defense, the complainants admitted that neither defendant had ever threatened them the Judge nevertheless ordered the two defendants held in \$5,000.00 peace bond."

The Daily Worker, with masthead as mentioned above, under date of Monday July 20, 1936, reflected a news item under the caption "CP Announces National Committee for Election Drive." Instant article reflected ... Communist leader and Chairman of the National Committee for the election of ... and ... and ... announced the members of this committee. The name of ...

AF 100-759

The Daily Worker, 1. The material as previously referred to under date of ...

The Daily Worker, 1. The material as reflected above, for Tuesday June 22, 1937, contained an article which reflected that ...

The foregoing copies of ... of the Daily Worker reflecting ... are on file at the Atlanta Division and are properly identified.

T-1 has advised that ... attended the 5th National Convention of the Workers Alliance in Chicago on August 29, and 30, 1936, as a delegate from Columbus, Ohio, and stated that he had come in contact with various Communist Party members while in Chicago. One of these Communist Party members was contacted by T-1 (see ...)

T-2, who was a member of the Communist Party for approximately twenty years, stated in part in a signed statement dated April 11, 1942:

Rev. and Prof. ... (Jin ...)

... Congregational ... one of founders of Highlander Folk School; Communist Party trade union director; State Sec'y, Communist Party of Kentucky; County Sup't of ... in Georgia, and professor at ... University, in Georgia and now police officer of ... President organization ... brother-in-law of ... and ...; poet, recently author of published book.

AT 100-557

"ED at ... a relative of the hill country of ... (by rule singing, he said), obtained ... Federal Socialists ... were the ... early in 1934, assigned to ... organizer ... 1934, under the name of ... successful in ... at Chapel Hill. ... with aid of ... (from) and many faculty members at the university.

"After about a year in North Carolina ... to Kentucky as party district organizer, ... or to ... followed by ...

"... reports to the ... office has been very encouraging, showing considerable ... and rapidly increasing membership which reached a registration figure of over 200. ... in most ... states, ... and ... were used by the district organizer as a subsidy). ... arrived and took over the district he could locate only a ... of the transcripts and sections reported in ... reports were never located and over 175 paper members of the party disappeared from the face of the earth. ... a year or two he remained as inconspicuous as possible. Then he began writing a ... especially for left-wing press.

"I know of his subsequent activities primarily from newspaper publicity. After being ... of ... in a North Georgia county he became a ... at ... University. He ... officer of ... A published volume of ... about two years ago received considerable publicity in literary reviews. . . ."

Dr. T. ... BARNETT, 300 Kingsboro Road, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, advised in 1943 that ... of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of ... Georgia, and that ... was a close associate of ... BARNETT also stated that

NY 100-10000

NY 100-10000 is included in having left in protest church and that he, NY 100-10000, was attending to his duties and not church with Government, being this held on the fact that all of a number of the church, was included by NY 100-10000 as a member of the church to include, that he, NY 100-10000, had read area one of the book and that NY 100-10000, in 1943, had spoken at the church, and during the speaking of our national defense and had spoken of things that differ with those as fascists and capitalists.

T-4 on 7-27-43 advised the New York Office that J. N. B. T., who is a poet and he is connected with the Unitarian Church, is a Communist. The informant believed the subject was in Texas, for on a recent trip of the informant to Texas he was told by a Lutheran minister in Houston that B. T. was "playing with" the "left wing" in the church.

T-4 further stated that he knew B. T. was a Communist because B. T. came to the Daily Worker Office, New York City in 1943 to check some files. The informant checked with Communist Party Headquarters before allowing B. T. to look at the files and was told that B. T. was a member of the Party and was "hook."

CONTACTS MADE BY B. T.

T-5 advised that B. T. was in contact with one J. M. H. H., 7435 North Rogers Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. The Chicago Office advised in the report of SA William J. G. dated at Chicago 7-1-47 and captioned W. J. G. that JULIA J. H. H. was. resides at 7535 North Rogers Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, and that she is a reported Communist and is active in the American Federation of Teachers and has done educational work for the Communist Party.

In 1947 T-3 advised that subject B. T. was paying the box rent for Atlanta Post Office Box 1173 which was rented to the Peoples Institute of Applied Religion.

On 10-1-47, B. T. was observed by former SA WALTER B. STONE of the Atlanta Division having lunch at the Atlantic Hotel, Luckie Street, Atlanta, Georgia, with former SA G. B. G., District Organizer for the Communist Party in the State of Georgia.

On 12-1-47, former SA WALTER B. STONE and SA CHARLES T. H. of the Atlanta Division observed subject B. T. with W. J. G.,

AT 112-529

National Workers Secretary of one Communist party at the Terminal Station in Atlanta, Georgia. ... observed at approximately 7:15 P.M. ... were observed ... proceeding to the home of ... at 125 Weber Drive, Ponce, Atlanta, at which place ... and ... remained with ... for a short period and ... and ... returned to the Terminal Station.

On 1-8-48, subject ... met an individual at the Hotel Fulton Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, instant meeting being observed by ... of the Atlanta Division. Above individual was later positively identified as ... the New York Division advised was in May 1937 Chief Editor of the Polish Press Agency.

On 3-13-48, Special Agents ... and ... of the Atlanta Division observed subject ... and his wife ... at the ... Restaurant on Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia. Above meeting occurred at approximately 3:15 P.M.

On March 26, 1948, Special Agents ... and ... of the Atlanta Division observed subject ... with ... and ... Above meeting occurred at approximately 3 P.M. on the above date at the ... Restaurant parking lot, Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia. ... and ... came to the above parking lot in ... automobile and picked up ... is the United Public Workers of America, CIO Organizer for the State of Georgia.

On 5-10-48 Special Agents ... and ... of the Atlanta Division observed subject ... meeting with ... at approximately 1 P.M. on the above date on Parkway Drive near the Henry Grady High School, Atlanta, Georgia.

On 5-1-48 ... was observed by Special Agents ... and ... at the Terminal Station, Atlanta, Georgia, with an individual later identified as ... Communist Party Organizer of Louisiana. ... of the Atlanta Division took 16 millimeter moving pictures of instant meeting between ... and ... and developed film reflecting instant meeting is on file in the Atlanta Division. ... then shown a photograph of individual meeting with ... positively identified this individual as ... Communist Party Organizer for the

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AT 10-55

REPORT OF A dated at
... .. as a result of sur-
veillance of of the
... .. at the
... ..
... .. in the National Maritime
Union is the most active
Communist in the division.

- 10 -

AT 100-519

CONFIDENTIAL

T-1 is confidential informant [redacted]

b2
b7D

T-2 is PAUL ST. WALKER, a former member of the Communist Party for 12 years who is presently residing in the Miami Division.

b2
b7D

T-3 is [redacted] Atlanta, Georgia.

T-4 is confidential informant [redacted]

T-5 is mail cover on D. [redacted] at [redacted] United States Post Office.

T-6 is [redacted]

b2
b7D

T-7 is Special Agent J. [redacted] [redacted]

T-8 is [redacted] Douglasville, Georgia.

Best Copy

FD-72
(1-10-49)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO. 100-569

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 12-12-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11-1-49	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH C. HOLMES
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

DONALD LEE WEST is apparently leading a quiet life on his farm near Douglasville, Ga.; reportedly spends most of his time farming and writing. WEST has had no known contacts with HOMER EATES CHASE, Communist Party District Organizer for Ga., during the past year, but his writings purportedly follow the Communist line.

P. G. A.

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-20396.
Report of SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES, 3-11-49, Atlanta.

DETAILS:

AT DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA:

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that he sees DONALD WEST frequently on the latter's farm, located about ten miles south of Douglasville, Georgia, in Douglas County, and that WEST appears to be leading an industrious but quiet life. He stated that he has never been successful in engaging WEST in any type of political discussion, but has observed that WEST is usually busy in an effort to improve the buildings on his farm and getting the place cultivated. He said that WEST apparently spends quite a bit of time in writing. He also informed that WEST'S wife and daughters are living in Fernandina, Florida, where he understands Mrs. WEST has a teaching position.

NOV 15 1965
FBI - RICHMOND

100-70401-24

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b7C

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AT., 100-559

Mr. J. SPENCE DAVIDSON, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, who operates a country store in the community where DON WEST lives, advised that WEST appears to be living a quiet life on his farm and from all reports spends quite a bit of his time in writing.

Mr. DAVIDSON informed that DON WEST, after moving to his present home, attended the Mount Zion Baptist Church, which is in that community, on a number of occasions, and on one occasion led prayer and took part in the meeting. However, after the local members of the church learned that DON WEST is supposed to be a Communist the members cooled off toward WEST and WEST stopped attending church.

Mr. DAVIDSON further informed that CHARLIE HALL, Sr., a retired Federal Penitentiary guard and a neighbor of DON WEST, is WEST'S closest friend in the community and has associated with him quite a bit. He also informed that CHARLIE HALL, Jr., lives with his father and is employed as a mail carrier in the City of Atlanta, Georgia, and commutes to work. He informed that CHARLIE HALL, Sr. is presently in very poor health and is confined to an Atlanta hospital.

Mr. JEROME H. (CURLEY) WILSON, Douglasville, Georgia, advised that he has relatives living in the community where DON WEST resides and has spent quite a bit of time in the community hunting and fishing. He informed that as far as he knows DON WEST has never made any effort to preach Communism to any of his neighbors. He stated that he has heard that DON WEST is planning to leave his farm and go to work for a New York City publishing company.

It has been ascertained that DON WEST frequently received a number of copies of "The Southern Farmer", a magazine published at Montgomery, Alabama.

T-1 informed that he has noted several articles which were written by DON WEST published in "The Southern Farmer".

In connection with WEST'S reported contributions to "The Southern Farmer" magazine, a letter appeared in the "letters to the editor section" of the Atlanta Constitution on September 19, 1949; this letter is signed "K. S., Atlanta", and is quoted as follows:

AT., 100-559

"What Line?

"I have just read in this month's issue of Southern Farmer an article by D. L. WEST praising a certain Georgia minister for being what Mr. WEST calls a "practical Christian". It seems, according to this article, he earns this praise for attacking our foreign policy toward Russia; believing peace can be ours if we want it (meaning we, and not Russia, are to blame for the threat of war in the world); for "practicing Christian democracy" by fearlessly taking Negroes into his church and in his home; for attacking the KKK, Columbians and other "Fascist" organizations (the Communist Party not being mentioned). Mr. WEST goes on to say this preacher has had the "honor" of being denounced as a Communist, thus indicating this was a sign of his being right.

"I ask you, is this pure Communist-line propoganda? You answer it.

"To be sure one should have the right to criticize his country. But for a minister of the Gospel to turn aside from the faith and join hands with the Communists, who are to the core haters of God and all that is good, only proves that we are in the time spoken of it II Thes. 2:3, the "falling away" among the believers".

Confidential Informant T-3, who in the past has furnished reliable information concerning Communist Party activities in Georgia, advised that in July, 1949, JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT, who was very active in the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia, and was formerly a known close associate of DONALD LEE WEST, advised him that "DON WEST is provoking CHASE and the entire group of the Peoples Progressive Party".

CHASE referred to above is HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party District Organizer for Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-4, who in the past has voluntarily furnished reliable information concerning Communist Party activities in Georgia, advised that JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT visited his home in the

AT., 100-559

early part of May, 1949, and told him that MAT ROSS, Southern Organizer for the Communist Party, had, on his last visit to Atlanta, tried to get DON WEST and HOMER BATES CHASE together. T-4 also quoted BARFOOT as stating that he, BARFOOT, and DON WEST were trying to get rid of the Communist influence in the Progressive Party.

Confidential Informants T-4, T-5, T-6, and T-7, of known reliability, advised that DONALD LEE WEST has not been active in Communist Party activities during the three month period ending September 30, 1949.

T-4, T-5, and T-7 advised that DON WEST has not been active in Georgia affairs of the Communist Party for the three month period ending June 30, 1949.

Confidential Informants T-7 and T-8, of known reliability, advised that to their knowledge DON WEST was not in contact with HOMER BATES CHASE or EUDICE TONTAK, a close associate of CHASE, for the three month period ending March 31, 1949.

EVANS WILDER, formerly of Cartersville, Georgia, and who now resides in Atlanta, was, according to his own admission, recruited into the Communist Party by HOMER BATES CHASE, advised in the spring of 1949 that DONALD LEE WEST was not actively connected with the Communist Party in Georgia.

T-3 advised that an informant had told him DONALD WEST had stated that he, WEST, had been dropped from the Communist Party because he was "too rugged an individualist".

- P E N D I N G -

L E A D S

THE MIAMI DIVISION

At Fernandina, Florida, will attempt to determine if subject's wife is teaching school in Fernandina.

THE MOBILE DIVISION

At Montgomery, Alabama, will review the 1949 issues of the Southern Farmer magazine, particularly the September, 1949, issue, and ascertain what articles therein have been written by DONALD LEE WEST. Will brief the contents of any articles written by WEST.

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia, will continue to follow WEST'S Communist activities, if any, through Atlanta informants.

Will interview CHARLIE HALL, Jr., who is an Atlanta, Georgia, mail carrier, concerning activities of WEST in the Douglas County community where both HALL and WEST reside. HALL may be contacted through his post office sub-station, telephone Dearborn 4787. It is desired that he be interviewed away from home inasmuch as his father is reportedly a close friend of DONALD WEST.

At Douglasville, Georgia, will, through informants, continue to follow DONALD LEE WEST'S activities.

AT., 100-559

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Mr. J. SPENCE DAVIDSON, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, advised that it was rumored in Douglasville that CHARLIE HALL, Sr., a neighbor of subject WEST, is "one of DONALD WEST'S converts".

Mr. DAVIDSON further informed that he has heard rumors in the community that DONALD WEST is attempting to rent his farm and is desirous of moving to New York City.

In connection with the lead set out for the Miami Division at Fernandina, Florida, subject's wife's name is MABEE ADAMS WEST: originally from Middlesboro, Kentucky, and has two children, [REDACTED]

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AT., 100-559

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1: [redacted]
[redacted] Georgia, who has requested his identity
be protected.

b7D

T-3: [redacted]
[redacted] Georgia, who has requested his identity be
protected.

b7D

T-4: [redacted] former Communist Party member,
who has requested his identity be protected.

b7D

T-5: AT-1342. ✓

T-6: AT-1344. ✓

T-7: AT-1338.

T-8: AT-1340.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO. 100-559 ml

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 3-11-49	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/22; 11/15/48 1/7, 28/49	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH C. HOLMES
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, Was.		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

DONALD LEE WEST reportedly in contact with SAM WILLIAMS, HOMER BATES CHASE, NAT ROSS, JAMES L. BARFOOT, and to have been very active in Peoples Progressive Party of Ga. until November, 1948. WEST reported to have submitted resignation as Co-Chairman of the Progressive Party (State of Georgia), on 11-6-48, but that committee members tabled his written resignation. Informants state he has not been very active in Communist Party matters since November, 1948. Subject presently living on farm at Rt. 4, Douglasville, Ga.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File No. ²⁰³⁹⁶ 100-19355,
Letter from Atlanta to Bureau, 11-15-48.
Report of SA PAUL F. TIERNEY, Atlanta, 10-27-48.

DETAILS :

Confidential Informants T-1, T-2, and T-3, all informants of known reliability, advised that during July, August and September, 1948, DON WEST's sole activity had been in connection with the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
<p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 - Bureau 1 - OSI, Charleston 1 - OSI Werner Robins, Ga. 1 - IDA, Atlanta. 2 - Atlanta 		<p>SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....</p> <p>SERIALIZED.....FILED.....</p> <p>SEP 30 1966</p> <p>FBI BALTIMORE</p> <p>100-559</p> <p>100-10401-32</p> <p>100-15680-130</p> <p>SEP 15 1965</p> <p>FBI - RICHMOND</p> <p>b6</p> <p>b7C</p>

AT - 100-559

Confidential Informant T-3 advised that EUDICE TONTAK, WILLIAM WRIGHT STAFFORD, both close and constant contacts of HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer, Communist Party, District #31, Georgia, and HOMER BATES CHASE told him that WEST had not been cooperative during the past three months while he had been residing on his farm; and that it was their opinion that he had become a "prima donna" in reference to the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia's work.

Confidential Informants T-1, T-3, and T-4, who is a person of known reliability, advised that DONALD LEE WEST was very active in the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia during October and November of 1948, and that WEST had been contacted by NAT ROSS, Southern Organizer, Communist Party, his brother-in-law, on three or four occasions during the three months period prior to October, 1948. They informed that WEST has not been very active in Communist Party matters during the period October through December, 1948.

Confidential Informant T-5, an informant of known reliability, advised that during the week ending October 22, 1948, he was around the Peoples Progressive Party Headquarters frequently, and that on one occasion he saw Mr. and Mrs. JAMES L. BARFOOT leaving the Party Headquarters with DONALD WEST in WEST's red Jeep. JAMES L. BARFOOT was the Progressive Party candidate for Governor of Georgia. T-5 informed that several days later BARFOOT told him that he and his wife had spent several nights on WEST's farm near Douglasville, Georgia. He informed that SAM WILLIAMS, a Negro Professor in Political Science at Atlanta University, was closely associated with DONALD WEST, and that the two frequently worked together.

Confidential Informant T-5 further advised that he returned to his home on October 20, 1948, at about 6:00 p.m. after having been absent all day. At that time T-5's mother told him that HOMER BATES CHASE, DONALD WEST, and NAT ROSS came to his house about 10:30 that morning and stayed until about 2:30 p.m. T-5 advised on November 8, 1948, that he had attended a meeting of the Peoples Progressive Party at 85 Alexander Street, Atlanta, Georgia, on November 6, 1948, and that at this meeting DONALD LEE WEST had submitted a written resignation as Co-Chairman of the Progressive Party in the State of Georgia. He said that SAM WILLIAMS, Negro, made a motion which was carried to table the resignation submitted by WEST.

As a matter of interest in this case, it is noted from a news item appearing in the "Atlanta Journal", October 13, 1948, that DONALD WEST was not listed as an elector for the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia, and that those who were listed as electors had signed "non Communist" affidavits as requested under recently enacted Georgia election laws. It is also noted that this news item reflected that a list of electors which had been submitted earlier by the Progressive Party contained the name of DONALD WEST.

Confidential Informant T-6, a person of known reliability, advised that he has noticed no unusual activities around DONALD WEST's farm in recent months. He said that WEST is spending most of his time alone, and has been busy for the past week or so installing a well pump and a running water system in his house. He also informed that Mrs. SHIRLEY T. CAPPS, who also resides on this farm with her husband, is apparently spending week-ends only on this farm. It will be noted that SHIRLEY T. CAPPS is reportedly a teacher in the Atlanta, Georgia Public School System. T-6 further informed that DONALD WEST's correspondence has been unusually light in recent weeks.

Confidential Informant T-5 advised on December 30, 1948, that NAT ROSS and DONALD WEST had visited at his home on that day, and had left at about 5:00 p.m. to go to WEST's place near Douglasville, Georgia. T-5 further informed that ROSS had arrived in Atlanta on December 30, 1948, and would undoubtedly confer with HOMER BATES CHASE.

Confidential Informant T-3 advised on December 13, 1948, that HARDY SCOTT contacted EUDICE TONTAK in an effort to locate DONALD LEE WEST. He stated that TONTAK advised SCOTT that WEST was probably on his farm in Douglasville, Georgia. This informant further advised that SCOTT and TONTAK arranged to meet for lunch about 12:45 p.m., on December 13, 1948.

Confidential Informant T-7, who is a person of known reliability, advised that on December 13, 1948, he observed EUDICE TONTAK meet HARDY LEE SCOTT on Pryor Street in front of the Chamber of Commerce Building, Atlanta, Georgia. He informed that HARDY LEE SCOTT was a Communist Party organizer in Georgia in the early 1940's, and is now, according to a reliable source in the Atlanta division, believed to be in Asheville, North Carolina in some leather workers union.

AT - 100-559

L E A D S

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

At Atlanta, Georgia

Will continue to follow the activities of DON WEST through informants at Douglasville, Georgia, and maintain contacts with informants to determine DONALD WEST's movements and activities.

AT - 100-559

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant T-1 - AT-1331
Confidential Informant T-2 - [redacted] b2
Confidential Informant T-3 - AT-1338 b7D
Confidential Informant T-4 - AT-1340
Confidential Informant T-5 - [redacted] b7D

[redacted] Georgia, who has on numerous occasions voluntarily furnished reliable information concerning the Communist Party activities in Atlanta, and the State of Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-6 - [redacted]

[redacted] Georgia,

Confidential Informant T-7 -

Special Agent PAUL F. TIERNEY,
Atlanta, Georgia.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

AT. FILE NO. 100-559 fwp

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA	DATE WHEN MADE 4-4-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-27;3-28-50	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH C. HOLMES
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was,			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

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[redacted] of DON WEST, advised he knows of no Communist activity on part of WEST. Subject's main source of income for past two years believed to have been received under canceled teaching contract from Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga. Additional investigation Douglasville, Ga., failed to reveal that WEST is taking any active part in Communist Party affairs. Two articles written by WEST and published in 1949 by the Southern Farmer Magazine, Montgomery, Ala., reviewed.

- C -

DETAILS:

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AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA:

Special Agent [redacted] interviewed [redacted] Georgia, a neighbor of DONALD LEE WEST.

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[redacted] informed that DONALD LEE WEST has visited his father, CHARLES HALL, Sr. at his home on numerous occasions and is rather friendly with him. However, HALL said that he has never heard WEST say or do anything which indicates that he is actively engaged in any Communists activities.

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that DONALD LEE WEST opened a bank account in Deuglasville, Georgia, in July, 1948, and closed

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1 IIA - Atlanta		
2 Atlanta		

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FBI - ATLANTA

AT., 100-559

the account out in September, 1949. He informed that he believes WEST now has an account at an Austell, Georgia, bank. He furnished information indicating that WEST'S average balance during that time was around \$300.00, and that he frequently deposited checks of approximately \$290.00 once a month, which were written by Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia.

T-1 advised that after having read the newspaper account of WEST'S dismissal from Oglethorpe University he assumed that WEST had held a contract with the university and that the university was obligated to pay him his salary during the period of the contract.

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised that he has been in contact with DONALD LEE WEST frequently during the past eighteen months and that WEST apparently is living a quiet life on his farm. He informed that WEST has recently been to Fernandina, Florida, to visit his wife.

T-1 stated that WEST apparently has very few visitors and spends most of his time either working on his farm or in writing.

Sheriff MAC ABERCROMBIE, Douglas County, Douglasville, Georgia, advised that individuals in the vicinity of WEST'S farm state subject leads a quiet life and has very few visitors.

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA:

Special Agent SPENCER H. ROBB reviewed the 1949 issues of the Southern Farmer magazine in the Library of the State Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama. This review reflected in the September, 1949, issue, an article entitled "Grass Roots Preacher" by D. L. WEST. This article was four full columns in length and dealt with the fearlessness of a preacher, CHARLIE PRATT, of Dalton, Georgia, in his approach to the racial situation. The article praised PRATT, who is a pastor of the Church of God of the Union Assembly at Dalton for preaching and teaching equality of all men regardless of race or religion, and further praised him for being unafraid for being called a Communist, as has been done in the past.

The November, 1949, issue of the Southern Farmer contains an article entitled "One Georgia Hill Farmer" by DON WEST. This article tells of the success of one ASBERRY M. McGLAMERY, Route 4,

AT., 100-559

Blairsville, Georgia, in farming: This three column article ended on the note that McGLAMERY realizes his success is due to cooperation and unity; that if he is to survive, he must organize for united planning and action; that there must be greater cooperation and unity between the small farmer and city industrial worker.

These two articles were the only ones written by subject appearing in the 1949 issues of the Southern Farmer.

- C L O S E D -

ATs, 100-559

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

T-1: [redacted]
[redacted] Georgia:

b7D

T-2: [redacted]
[redacted] Georgia:

REFERENCE:

Bureau File 100-20396.
Report of SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES, 12-12-49, Atlanta.
Atlanta letter to Director, 2-20-50.
Mobile letter to Atlanta, 2-27-50.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA**

FILE NO. **100-559**

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 11-3-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-10,22;8-7,28; 10-18,26-50	REPORT MADE BY JOSEPH C. HOLMES SG
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

WEST has apparently been employed by the Chicago Office of the Home Missions Council of North America, Migrant Division, to work in connection with migratory laborers; is presently believed to be traveling in Texas for this reportedly religious charity organization. His mailing address is presently General Delivery, Lubbock, Texas. WEST has rented his farm near Douglasville, Georgia to tenant farmer. Former associate of subject reports WEST requested [redacted]

Georgia to assist him in mailing out a large number of "peace tracts" advocating the cessation of the "senseless war in Korea" in 7-50. WEST in 7-50 was in contact with the Peace Information Center, New York City. In signed statement [redacted] former associate of HOMER BATES CHASE, CPDO, District 31, stated that WEST had been known to him as a member of the CP.

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100-10401-56

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- P -

DETAILS:

T-1 of known reliability advised that between May 8, 1950 and October 9, 1950, DONALD WEST's first class mail was being forwarded to Room 839 - 127 Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, as will appear hereinafter, this is the address of the Chicago Office of the Home Missions Council of North America.

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you by [redacted]

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AT. 100-559

T-1 informed that DON WEST has rented his farm in Douglas County, Georgia to a tenant farmer, [redacted] and has only returned to Douglasville, Georgia for two visits since May, 1950. He said that DON WEST spent only a few hours there on each of the two visits.

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T-1 informed that all of WEST's mail other than first class mail was being delivered at [redacted] in care of [redacted]

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T-1 also informed that around July 6, 1950, DON WEST was in touch with the "Peace Information Center, Post Office Box 349, Grand Central Station, New York 17, New York".

T-1 advised that on October 9, 1950, DON WEST changed his forwarding address to General Delivery, Lubbock, Texas.

Mr. WILLIAM ROY SMITH, 3740 Lacy Circle, Hapeville, Georgia, (Apartment 3, Blair Village), called at the Atlanta Office on July 22, 1950, and furnished the following information: He said that he first became acquainted with DONALD LEE WEST when WEST was a minister in Meansville, Georgia, around 1938 or 1939. He said he became quite friendly with WEST and maintained this friendship for approximately one year, at which time he, SMITH, moved to South Carolina. In 1946, when SMITH was living in Atlanta, Georgia, he renewed his friendship with DON WEST and WEST's wife and DON WEST and his wife became frequent visitors at SMITH's home, which at that time was 721 Parkway Drive, N. E. He informed that DON WEST brought HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party Organizer for District #31 to his home on several occasions and that HOMER BATES CHASE rented a room in SMITH's home, living there for approximately six months around 1946.

AT. 100-559

SMITH informed that in the fall of 1948, at which time he was living at 690 West Peachtree Street, Atlanta, Georgia, he was again closely associated with DONALD WEST who at that time was active in the Progressive Party political campaign. During this period SMITH advised that he severed relations with HOMER BATES CHASE but that he maintained friendship with DON WEST inasmuch as WEST told him that he had resigned from the Communist Party and was no longer interested or active in the Party's work.

SMITH advised that on July 18, or 19, 1950, he stopped at the Roadside Store just north of Jonesboro, Georgia on U. S. Highway 41, which is operated by [redacted]. He said that [redacted] showed him a letter which she had received from DON WEST postmarked Northport, Michigan around the 10th to 15th of July, 1950. He said this letter inquired whether [redacted] would address a large number of envelopes for WEST from a list which WEST would supply her and in which would be placed "Peace Tracts", advocating the "cessation of the senseless war in Korea." SMITH stated that the letter continued that "we" would mail the letters from WEST's place at Blairsville, Georgia.

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On August 28, 1950, WILLIAM ROY SMITH furnished a letter postmarked August 17, 1950, at Amelia City, Florida, addressed to him and bearing the return address "WEST, North Beach, Fernandina, Florida. The envelope bore the printed return address, marked through, "Home Missions Council of North America, Incorporated, Mid-West Office, 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 2, Illinois." The letter contained therein, which appeared to be from DON WEST, was personal in nature and indicated DON WEST had recently visited WILLIAM ROY SMITH, Atlanta.

SMITH informed that during the early part of August, 1950, DON WEST visited him at which time WEST told him that he was employed in a traveling capacity by the Home Missions Council and that the purpose of this organization was to provide education for the children of migratory farm workers throughout the United States. SMITH advised that WEST was making approximately \$5,000 a year and had an \$150 a month expense account.

AT. 100-559

SMITH also stated that DONALD LEE WEST told him that he, WEST, plans to maintain his legal residence with his wife in Fernandina, Florida, that he had rented his farm in Douglasville, Georgia, to a tenant farmer and expected to spend most of his time traveling in Texas. He said WEST told him that his wife would continue to teach school in Fernandina, Florida.

T-1 informed that during the period August 8, 1950 through October 17, 1950, DONALD LEE WEST was in touch with the following organizations and publications:

Rumanian News, Washington, D. C.
The Yugoslav Information Center, 36 Central Park South,
New York City.
The Legation of Rumania, Washington, D. C.

Special Agent JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, Jr., interviewed

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[redacted]
Hapeville, Georgia on August 28, 1950, relative to his association with the information concerning DONALD LEE WEST. [redacted] who is the son of WILLIAM ROY SMITH, mentioned above, furnished the following signed statement:

"Aug. 28, 1950
Atlanta, Georgia

I, [redacted]

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[redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, give the following voluntary signed statement to Special Agent JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, Jr., who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. I have been informed that I may have an attorney and that this statement may be used in a court of law. No threats, promises or inducement were made to me.

AT. 100-559

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(Signed statement of [redacted] continued.)

During 1947, 1948 and 1949 I was acquainted with HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer for the Communist Party for the State of Georgia, and through him became acquainted with army individuals. I have known DONALD LEE WEST since 1941 and DON WEST has been known to me as a member of the Communist Party.

HOMER BATES CHASE told me that DONALD LEE WEST was a member of the Communist Party. My father, ROY SMITH, told me that DON WEST was a member of the Communist Party but had quit.

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/s/ [redacted]

WITNESSES:

/s/ W. WINTON WARREN, Sp Agt. FBI., Atlanta, Ga., 8-28-50.
/s/ JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, Jr., Sp Agt. FBI, Atlanta, Ga.,
8-28-50."

WEST is described as follows:

Name	DONALD LEE WEST
Age	41 Years
Born	June 6, 1908 at Cartecay, Georgia
Race	White
Sex	Male

AT. 100-559

Height	6' 2"
Weight	185 Pounds
Eyes	Blue, one eye does not focus
Hair	Dark Brown, thin in front
Occupations	Farmer, writer, minister and teacher.
Scars and Marks	Thumb and first two fingers missing, left hand.
FBI Number	814505

- P E N D I N G -

AT. 100-559

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

For the information of the Dallas Office, DONALD LEE WEST has been the subject of an Atlanta Security Matter Case for a number of years. Until February 20, 1950, he was carried in the Atlanta Office as a Key Figure in the Communist Organization. However, since the fall of 1948 WEST has had no known active association with the Communist Party. He reportedly disagreed with HOMER BATES CHASE, Communist Party District Organizer for District #31, Georgia, and as far as this Office knows WEST has not been active in Communist matters since that time. However, he is presently carried as a Security Index Subject in this Office.

AT. 100-559

L E A D S

THE CHICAGO DIVISION

.. At Chicago, Illinois,

If deemed advisable will ascertain present activities, whereabouts and itinerary of subject at Home Missions Council of North America, 127 Dearborn Street.

THE DALLAS DIVISION

At Lubbock, Texas,

Will check available sources in an effort to determine whether WEST is presently residing in Lubbock and endeavor to find out what he is doing.

Will ascertain whether there are any migrant labor camps in the Lubbock area and if so interview the individuals in charge for information concerning DON WEST's activities.

THE MIAMI DIVISION

Miami is being furnished a copy of this report inasmuch as it appears likely that DON WEST may establish his legal residence there. His wife and two daughters reside at Fernandina, Florida.

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

...At Atlanta, Georgia,

Will continue efforts to keep track of DON WEST through available informants.

AT. 100-559

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT PAGE

b7D

T-1 is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Georgia.

REFERENCES:

Report of Special Agent BENNETT M. HIRSH,
Miami, dated September 30, 1950.

Atlanta letter to Director dated September 5, 1950.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO. 100-7192

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	DATE WHEN MADE 11/24/50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/20/50	REPORT MADE BY DANIEL THOMAS inf
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject presently in Texas and can be reached at General Delivery, Lubbock, Texas.

-- RUC --

Details

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised on November 20, 1950 that he had learned from an employee of the Home Missions Council of North America, 127 North Dearborn, whose name he did not know, that WEST is presently employed by the Home Missions Council of North America, 127 North Dearborn, Chicago, and that he is presently in the state of Texas and can be reached at General Delivery, Lubbock, Texas.

The source stated that WEST was in a constant travel status for the organization and that his itinerary is unknown to the informant.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
JUL 17 1951

100-7192-37

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
	SERIALIZED NOV 13 1950 FBI - CHICAGO	100-7192-37
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		
5 - Bureau (100-20396)		
2 - Chicago		100-15680-133
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____ SEP 30 1956	SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____	b6 b7C

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REPRODUCED OUTSIDE OF

37

Chicago File 157-7192

FEDERAL

One copy of this report is being designated for Dallas inasmuch as Subject is employed in their area.

Chicago File # 100-7192

INFORMANT PAGE

T-1 A pretext telephone call to an unidentified employee of the Home Missions Council of North America, Central C-1165 by SA DANIEL THOMAS.

REFERENCE: Report of SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES dated 11/3/50 at Atlanta.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA FILE NO. 100-8551 nlp

REPORT MADE AT DALLAS, TEXAS	DATE WHEN MADE 12-29-50	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12-9,11,14,15, 16,19-50	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>	b6 b7C
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

WEST has appeared briefly at Lubbock, Texas but has furnished San Antonio address each time. Only known Lubbock contacts are among ministers.

- RUC -

DETAILS: AT LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Dallas T-1, of known reliability, advised that his records reflect that on November 7, 1950, DONALD LEE WEST furnished his address as 110 W. Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas. He reported that on an earlier date WEST had given an address in Missouri which is not now recalled. T-1 reported that on about December 12, 1950 WEST advised that he would reappear at Lubbock and he did appear shortly thereafter, but on December 18 he gave his address again as 110 W. Cypress Street, San Antonio.

Dallas T-2, of known reliability, reported that he is aware that WEST, representing the Home Missions Council of North America was in Lubbock briefly and that he contacted various protestant ministers. He stated that WEST appeared in the company of a Methodist student worker at Texas Technological College and that he addressed a meeting of protestant ministers on the subject of a unified National Council of Churches in Lubbock on October 27, 1950, however the informant did not hear his talk. He stated that in his brief contact with WEST nothing was said which made it appear that WEST intended residing in Lubbock.

The following persons advised that they do not know the subject and have not been contacted by him: Texas State Employment

100-70401-38

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....	FILED.....	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
		SEP 30 1966 FBI - BALTIMORE			
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (100-20595) 2 San Antonio (Encl) 3 Atlanta (100-559) 2 Dallas		SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....	SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
		JAN 4 1951 FBI - ATLANTA		NOV 15 1965 FBI - RICHMOND	

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100-15680-134/100-27500-100

DL-100-8551

Service; R. S. FOYD County Superintendent of Public Instruction and his
assistant,

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ENCLOSURE: TO SAN ANTONIO: -1 copy of the report of SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES,
Atlanta, 11-3-50.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

DL-100-8551

LEAD SHEET

THE SAN ANTONIO OFFICE

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Will verify subject's residence at 110 W.
Cypress Street, and will endeavor to ascertain
the nature of his activities in San Antonio.

DL-100-6551

INFORMANT PAGE

Dallas T-1 is [REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED] whose identity is protected since information furnished was from Post Office records.

Dallas T-2 is the [REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED] a personal friend of the writer's who requested that his identity be maintained confidential.

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES, Atlanta, 11-3-50.
Report of SA DANIEL THOMAS, Chicago, 11-20-50.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ATLANTA

SA FILE NO. 100-7986 J.W

REPORT MADE AT SAN ANTONIO	DATE WHEN MADE 2/19/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/20/50- 1/12, 22, 23; 2/7, 10/51	REPORT MADE BY MILLS L. JOHNSON
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject is residing temporarily at 110 West Cypress St., San Antonio, Texas, the home of HARRY KOGLER, Communist Party sympathizer. Subject read poetry at meeting 1/21/51 at which JOHN STANFORD, CP leader in San Antonio, attended. Subject stated he travels among "West" back" Mexican and Negroes and would possibly make trip to Harlingen, Texas and to Michigan in the near future.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

On October 20, 1950, T-3, of known reliability, advised SAC C. L. WEEKS that DON WEST, who was known to him as "The Poet of the Revolution" had been in town for a week or ten days and had been staying with HARRY KOGLER at 110 West Cypress Street. T-3 advised that subject was planning to leave October 21, 1950 for Lubbock, Texas.

T-3 described the subject as a reformed Congregational Preacher who, he reported, was now out contacting transients and was driving a cream colored Chevrolet bearing Illinois license 775-994.

T-3 advised that HARRY KOGLER is and has been a Communist Party sympathizer in the San Antonio area for a number of years and may possibly be a Communist Party member.

On January 22, 1951 T-1, of known reliability, reported that a meeting was held on the evening of January 21, 1951 at the home of [redacted]. She stated that DON WEST came to this meeting with [redacted]

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100-10401-40

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED..... SEP 30 1966 FBI - BALTIMORE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau (100-20396) 3 Atlanta (100-559) 3 San Antonio	SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED..... 100-15680-135 FBI - RICHMOND	SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED..... SEP 15 1965 FBI - RICHMOND	b6 b7C

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100-20392-40

SA 100-7986

Mr. and Mrs. HARRY KOGER. Mrs. LEERY advised those present that the purpose of the meeting was to hear DON WEST read his poetry. DON WEST spoke briefly concerning his career as a minister in Georgia and his many experiences among "Wet Back" Mexicans and "Negroes" who, he stated, were in the minority and are ill treated by the majority groups. He related that he traveled quite a bit among the "Wet Back" Mexicans and "Negroes" and would possibly make a trip to Harlingen, Texas and to the beet fields of Michigan in the very near future.

T-1 advised that the subject's poems were written in blank verse and she described them as "poems of despair based on the misery of the 'Wet Backs' and 'Negroes'". She stated that during the time WEST was speaking and reading his poems he did not change his expression and appeared to be a very sober, serious minded person.

T-1 advised that JOHN STANFORD came to the meeting late, apparently so he need not be introduced, and brought with him a book which appeared to be a Russian information bulletin which had a large number of pictures of Russian agriculture. STANFORD stated to T-1 he came to the meeting because he liked to hear the subject speak and read poems.

JOHN STANFORD is, according to T-4, of known reliability, one of the leading members of the Communist Party group in San Antonio.

On the evening of January 23, 1951 Special Agent H. HILTON & C KEE and the writer observed an individual who, by description, was apparently identical with subject, present at the home of HARRY KOGER, 110 West Cypress Street.

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On February 7, 1951 T-2, of known reliability, advised that [redacted] had mailed a number of leaflets and pamphlets to a number of ministers in San Antonio, each group of literature including a leaflet which contained a verse written by DON WEST. Included among the literature mailed were leaflets in praise of Russia and those published by the Peace Information Center of New York City.

On February 10, 1951 T-3 advised that he had ascertained that a book of the subject's poems had been published which was entitled "Clods of Southern Earth" by DON WEST. This book was copyrighted in 1946 by Doni and Gaer, Inc., 15 East 40th Street, New York 16, New York, and was illustrated by HAROLD PRICE. The foreword of the book entitled "Appreciation" stated in part, "especially should I express appreciation to....." and set out the names of a number of persons, included among which was "To Mary LOU KOCER who symbolizes the strength of character and mind of a dawning South". This book contained a photograph of DON WEST on the back cover.

SA 100-7986

T-3 advised that he would inform the San Antonio office in the event the subject had left this area;

The records of the Identification Division of the San Antonio Police Department and the San Antonio Retail Merchants Credit Association were checked and no record was found regarding subject.

P E N D I N G

SA 100-7986

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

It is noted that Chicago letter to the Bureau dated August 22, 1950 reflected that information obtained by pretext telephone call on August 8, 1950 to the Home Missions Council of North America, 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, revealed that the subject would return from Florida in September, 1950 to Chicago for one month and would then travel to Texas where he would spend the winter. Further, that he was working as a traveling representative of H.M.C.N.A. and would travel a great deal, mainly along the Texas-Mexican border and particularly around Brownsville, Texas.

SA 100-7986

LEADS

THE SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

At San Antonio, Texas

Will contact T-3 for information regarding the subject's activities and possible departure from San Antonio.

SI 100-7986

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The identities of the confidential informants mentioned in this report of SA MILES L. JOHNSON dated 2/19/51 at San Antonio, are:

T-1:

[REDACTED]

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San Antonio

(Who furnished information to SA E. HILTON .C KEE and requested that her identity remain confidential.)

T-2:

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

San Antonio, Texas

(Who requested that his identity remain confidential.)

T-3:

[REDACTED]

b7D

San Antonio, Texas

(Who requested his identity remain confidential.)

b2

b7D

T-4:

[REDACTED]

who furnished information to SA

[REDACTED]

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REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] Dallas, 12/29/50.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO. 100-559 cjk

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE WHEN MADE 4/7/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/3,17/50;1/2,9, 29,31;2/14;4/5/51	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 15px;"></div>
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Atlanta informant advises he received a Christmas card from DONALD LEE WEST during December, 1950, postmarked Montereiz, Cuba, where subject had visited. Reports subject has returned to Texas. Informant advises subject has written several poems. Has written two articles concerning alleged pitiful conditions of small farmers and migrant workers published recently in the "Southern Farmer" magazine.

- P -

DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES:

AT DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA

JOHN OJALA, Route 4, advised that he is slightly acquainted with DONALD LEE WEST, and stated that he had never heard WEST advocate changing this country's form of government by violence.

The following investigation was conducted by SA EDWARD R. KEELUSEK:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On January 9, 1951, advised that he received a Christmas card from WEST in December of 1950, postmarked Montereiz, Cuba. stated that

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES				
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (100-20396) 2 - Dallas (100-8551) 2 - Knoxville (100-9071) (info) 2 - Mobile 2 - San Antonio (100-1700) 3 - Atlanta		100	559	3	SEARCHED	INDEXED
		100-10401-38		NOV 15 1965	FBI RICHMOND	SEARCHED

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AT 100-559

WEST's daughter was attending school at Caleigo Irene Tolan, 24 de Febrero, Mantanzas, Cuba, and that subject possibly visited her during December, 1950.

Subsequent to January 9, 1951, [redacted] advised that subject had returned to Texas, where he was traveling among the migratory workers.

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The following investigation was conducted by SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR.:

On January 2, 1951, [redacted] advised that she was at Fernandina, Florida, during the summer of 1950, and she visited WEST and his wife at which time she observed the following items:

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A portion of a letter referring to World Peace Movement,

A pamphlet captioned Midwest Migrant Staff Letter published by the Home Missions Council of North America, 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, which pamphlet was published on August 3, 1950, and contained a small article to the effect that WEST was "full-time staff and resource leader" for the organization.

[redacted] advised that during October of 1950, WEST, without her permission had directed all his mail to her Post Office Box [redacted] Florida, and becoming angered by this action on the part of the subject, she read one of his letters. She stated that this letter was from a [redacted] Georgia, and contained information to the effect that [redacted] would not be able to use WEST's farm, but believed his son-in-law might use this farm.

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T-1 of known reliability, on December, 14, 1950, advised that the following poems had been written by WEST:

"The Alien"
"Little Scared One"
"Another Awful Story"

AT 100-559

T-1 further advised that the following poem was written by [redacted] [redacted] DONALD LEE WEST's daughter: "In Civics Class".

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T-1 further advised that the above listed poems paint a sad and pitiful picture of the life of small farmers and migrant workers. The poem entitled "Little Scared One" contains the following introductory note: "To a church leader who signed a peace petition, then under pressure, back down and cried 'I was taken in by the Reds', as if the 'Reds' are the only ones who worked for peace".

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted]

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Doctor [redacted] furnished two clippings from the "Southern Farmer". The first clipping, appearing in the November, 1950 issue, was entitled "The Genuine Article" by DON WEST. This article related DON WEST's alleged visit to one JIM RANKIN of Lyndon, Kentucky. The article related that JIM RANKIN was riding DON WEST around in the vicinity of Lyndon, Kentucky, and pointed out a 1500 acre estate which he said was owned by a Kentucky businessman who owned it as a "hobby". WEST quoted farmer JIM RANKIN as saying of the houses on this estate, "But among these mansions and fine barns are families living in shacks unfit for animals. Babies have been found with their faces half eaten off by rats. If I had this land, I'd want to see it split up into little farms so people who need to could make a living on it." WEST also quoted RANKIN as follows: "Negroes--brought to this country, in chains. Sold like cattle, still treated like animals in some places though we do take them to fight in our wars."

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The other article entitled, "They're Being Pushed Off the Land" by DON WEST, appeared in the January, 1951 issue of the "Southern Farmer". This article was written in the same vein as the above described article and depicted deplorable conditions among migratory workers in Texas and among small farmers in general.

AT 100-559

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

[redacted] Georgia, advised that DON WEST's first class mail is presently being forwarded to him at General Delivery, Lubbock, Texas.

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[redacted] Georgia, advised that DON WEST's second class is being received by [redacted] a friend and associate of DON WEST, and that [redacted] has in the recent past forwarded mail to several different Texas cities, including Lubbock and San Antonio. He informed that he will obtain complete addresses in the near future.

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For the information of the Mobile office, WILLIAM ROY SMITH, 3740 Lacey Circle, Apartment 3, Blair Village, had previously furnished information that around July 18, 1950, he stopped at the roadside store just north of Jonesboro, Georgia, which was operated by [redacted]. He stated that [redacted] showed him a letter which she had received from DON WEST, post-marked Northport, Michigan, around the tenth to the fifteen of July, 1950. He advised this letter inquired whether [redacted] would address a large number of envelopes for WEST from a list which WEST would supply her and in which would be placed "peace tracts" advocating the "cessation of this senseless war in Korea". SMITH stated that the letter further stated that "we" would mail the letters from WEST's place at Douglasville, Georgia.

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On March 26, 1951, [redacted] advised that her anticipated residence address would be care of [redacted] Florala, Alabama; and that her husband will be working and residing in Kingsport, Tennessee, where she might visit him on occasions. (Atlanta letter to Director, dated March 26, 1951, captioned JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT, SECURITY MATTER - C).

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It is requested that the Knoxville division disregard the lead set forth in report of SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES, dated February 14, 1951, in Atlanta, pending possible receipt of advice from the Mobile division that [redacted] is visiting her husband at Kingsport, Tennessee.

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JOHN OJALA, Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia, advised that he was born in Finland, in March, 1878, and entered the United States at New York about March, 1908. He stated that he received his final

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (cont'd)

citizenship papers in United States District Court, Madison, Wisconsin, around 1914 or 1915, and stated that he has been active in the Socialist Party in Madison, Wisconsin, and Atlanta, Georgia. He stated that he was last employed as a tailor by George Muse Clothing Company and Park-Chambers Company, both Atlanta, and formerly resided at 114 Harris Street, Atlanta, Georgia. OJALA emphatically stated that he has never been a member of the Communist Party.

[redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, on January 2, 1951, advised that subsequent to October of 1950, she read a letter addressed to DONALD LEE WEST, which letter was from [redacted]

[redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, which contained the statement, "I have been wanting to go back to Russia, but they all say I would have no chance to get in and they all think I am crazy for wanting to trade this wonderful America for hateful Russia."

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AT 100-559 .

LEADS

Two copies of the corrected report are being furnished the Knoxville division for informational purposes, inasmuch as coverage of the lead previously set out for that division may be necessary upon advice from the Mobile division.

DALLAS DIVISION

AT LUBBOCK, TEXAS

Will determine where DONALD LEE WEST's mail is presently being forwarded and make arrangements to be advised when he furnishes any change of address.

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Will maintain contact with [redacted] of the Associated Employers, 1037 Milam Building, for information regarding subject's activities and possible departure from that area,

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MOBILE DIVISION

AT FLORALA, ALABAMA

Will interview [redacted] relative to her reported receipt of a letter from DONALD LEE WEST in July, 1950.

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Will endeavor to obtain a signed statement concerning DONALD LEE WEST's letter and any information which she may have relative to Communist activities on the part of the subject.

ATLANTA DIVISION

AT DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA

Will maintain contact with [redacted] and [redacted] regarding activities of subject and his whereabouts.

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AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will continue efforts to follow DONALD LEE WEST's activities through available informants.

AT 100-559

INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant T-1: SA [redacted] New York
City, New York, who was present
during a search of [redacted]
[redacted] baggage by United States
Customs Officials at New York City
on December 14, 1950.

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REFERENCE: Report of SA MILES L. JOHNSON, dated February 19,
1951, at San Antonio
Bulet to Atlanta, March 21, 1951.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

FILE NO. 100-20396-103

REPORT MADE AT DALLAS	DATE WHEN MADE 3/2/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/27/51	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>
TITLE WALTER LINDSAY, Jr., et al.		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

WALTER LINDSAY PERKINS

Subject received mail briefly during March, 1951 at Lubbock, Texas, and on 3/2/51 and mail forwarded to Big Spring, Texas, on 4/4/51 and mail forwarded to 110 W. Cypress, San Antonio, Texas. Stop placed.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

At Lubbock, Texas:

Dallas T-1, of known reliability, advised that his records reflect that Subject had his mail forwarded to Big Spring, Texas, on March 30, 1951, after receiving mail for a brief interval at Lubbock. On April 4, 1951, he requested that his mail be forwarded to 110 W. Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas. T-1, advised that he will probably be informed when Subject returns to Lubbock, if he does return. Upon receipt of such information he will notify the writer.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
JUN 17 1951
FBI - RICHMOND

100-20401-41

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
	SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____	557-100	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT	SEP 26 1956 FBI - BALTIMORE	SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____	SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____ MAY 15 1965 FBI - RICHMOND
2 - Bureau (100-20396)			
1 - Atlanta (100-557)			
Dallas	b6 b7c		

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100-3551
ML

1 - 1 - 1

Copies of this report are designated for the Louisville Office and the San Antonio office since information has been received that subject may be a leader in the Communist Party in Kentucky and the San Antonio office is conducting investigation in an effort to establish his present address and employment.

THE ATLANTA DIVISION

At Atlanta

Will advise the Dallas office when the stop placed with T-1 may be removed.

100-3551
DL

LETTERHEAD

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Dallas T-1 is [REDACTED] Texas, whose identity is being protected due to the fact that the information furnished is contained in Post Office records.

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REFERENCES: Report of SA [REDACTED] Atlanta, 4/7/51.
Atlanta Letter to Bureau dated 4/7/51.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office ATLANTA	Office of Origin ATLANTA	Date 5/4/51	Investigative Period 4/26/51
Title of Case DONALD LEE WEST, was. Don Lee West, Don West, Reverend Donald L. West, Jim Webb, Jim Weaver		Report made by <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px;"></div>	Typed By: cjv/bjc
		Character of Case SECURITY MATTER - C	

SUMMARY

SYNOPSIS: DONALD LEE WEST temporarily resides 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas. Employed by Home Missions Council of North America, 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois. Informants advise subject active in Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia until November, 1948, at which time submitted resignation as co-chairman. Disagreed with HOMER BATES CHASE, District Organizer, District 31, CP, USA. Inactive in CP, USA matters since November, 1948. Subject admitted CP, USA membership to an acquaintance during 1948. Signed statement obtained from another acquaintance reflecting subject was a CP, USA member. Subject wrote articles for the "Southern Farmer" magazine and farmed at Douglasville, Georgia until 1950. During 1950, accepted position with Home Missions Council of North America, traveling extensively among migratory workers. Subject active regarding a "peace appeal." Visited his daughter in Cuba and returned to Texas, where he associates with known CP, USA members or sympathizers. Continues to write articles for the "Southern Farmer" magazine and also writes poems.

- P -

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below
Copies made:		
5 - Bureau (100-20396)		
3 - Atlanta (100-559)		
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 100-15688-138 SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED FILED [Signature] </div>

~~NOT INDEX~~

DETAILS:

RESIDENT AND BUSINESS ADDRESS

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability,
On April 17, 1951, advised that on April 4, 1951,

100 - 2231242

AT 100-559

WEST indicated that he was residing at 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas.

Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, on November 20, 1950, advised that he had learned from an unidentified employee of the Home Missions Council of North America, 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, that WEST was presently employed by the Home Missions Council of North America, and that he was at that time in the State of Texas, and could be reached at General Delivery, Lubbock, Texas. T-2 further advised that WEST was in a constant travel status for that organization.

BACKGROUND

Confidential Informant T-3, of unknown reliability, on April 23, 1951, advised that WEST was elected for a third or fourth year as Principal of Lula High School, Lula, Georgia, but resigned his position to accept a scholarship offered by the Rosenwald Fund.

Confidential Informant T-4, of unknown reliability, on April 23, 1951, was interviewed in connection with another matter under investigation, and volunteered information that WEST contacted him during the summer of 1946 concerning employment at Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, and he employed WEST in view of his past teaching record and the fact that he was a graduate of Oglethorpe University. He advised that WEST was discharged by him due to his failure to comply with instructions that any matter edited by professors of Oglethorpe University should first receive approval from him, inasmuch as these editions might have an influence on the reputation of the school. He advised that WEST was discharged by him during 1948, prior to the completion of his contract which required that WEST remain on the payroll following his dismissal.

Confidential Informant T-5, of unknown reliability, on January 23, 1950, advised that LABEL CONSTANCE WEST, subject's wife, was teaching in the Fernandina High School, Fernandina, Florida, and that her contract of employment would expire June 14, 1950. T-5 further advised that he was not acquainted with WEST, but believed he resided in Georgia. He stated that Mrs. WEST has two daughters, [redacted] who live at [redacted] Fernandina, Florida. T-5 stated that Mrs.

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AT 100-559

WEST had indicated to him that she would like to see her husband obtain a teaching position at Fernandina, Florida, and mentioned that her husband was obtaining a Master's Degree somewhere in Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, prior to April 4, 1950, advised that WEST had very few visitors and spent most of his time either working on his farm or writing at Douglasville, Georgia.

Confidential Informant T-7, of known reliability, prior to April 4, 1950, advised that he had been in contact with WEST frequently during the past eighteen months and stated that WEST is apparently living a quiet life on his farm, although he had recently been to Fernandina, Florida to visit his wife.

Confidential Informant T-8, of known reliability, prior to September 30, 1950, advised that WEST had been in Fernandina, Florida apparently during the week prior to August 29, 1950, inasmuch as on this date, he advised that he was leaving Fernandina and could be reached at 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 2, Illinois. T-8 further advised that subject's daughter, [redacted] was attending at Caleigo Irene Tolan, 24 de Febrero 65, Mantanzas, Cuba.

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Confidential Informant T-5, prior to September 30, 1950, advised Mrs. WEST obtained permission to leave a few days early from her duties as teacher at Fernandina High School, inasmuch as she was going to Michigan to join her husband who was working among the migratory fruit pickers there.

Mr. WILLIAM ROY SMITH, 3740 Lacey Circle, Hapeville, Georgia, on July 22, 1950, advised that during the early part of August, 1950, WEST visited him and stated that he was employed in a traveling capacity by the Home Missions Council, the purpose of this organization being to provide education for the children of migratory farm workers throughout the United States.

Confidential Informant T-9, of known reliability, prior to December 29, 1950, advised that WEST represented the Home Missions Council of North America, was in Lubbock, Texas, briefly, and that he contacted various Protestant ministers. T-9 stated WEST appeared in the company of [redacted] Methodist student worker at Texas [redacted] on October 27, 1950, addressed [redacted] ministers on the subject of a unified National Council of Churches in Lubbock, Texas.

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[redacted]
[redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, on January 9, 1951, advised that

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AT 100-59

WST's daughter was attending school in Cuba, and last subject possibly visited her during December of 1950, inasmuch as he received a Christmas card from WST postmarked Monterrey, Cuba.

Subsequent to January 9, 1951, [redacted] advised WST had returned to Texas, where he was traveling among the migratory workers.

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COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITIES AND EMPLOYERS

T-4 on April 23, 1951, volunteered further information that he questioned WST concerning his background at the time he dismissed him from employment with Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia, during which conversation WST admitted that he was a former member of the Communist Party of the USA, but had terminated his affiliation with that organization during 1936.

The Communist Party, USA has been cited by the Attorney General as coming within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Confidential Informants T-10 and T-11, of unknown reliability, and Confidential Informant T-12, of known reliability, prior to March 11, 1949, advised that W. ST was very active in the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia during October and November of 1948, and that W. ST had been contacted by HAY RICE, his brother-in-law, Southern Organizer of the Communist Party, USA, on three or four occasions during the three months prior to October of 1948. T-10, T-11, and T-12 further advised that W. ST had not been very active in Communist Party, USA matters during the period from October through December of 1948.

On January 10, 1951, [redacted]

[redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, advised that persons most prominent in the leadership of the now defunct Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia were DONALD SMITH, JUDICE TOWNKIN and HENRY PATTIS CHASE. SMITH further stated two other persons took an active interest in the Peoples Progressive Party and although they were not part of the top leadership, they were extremely active in Progressive Party activities. [redacted]

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AT 100-959

by [redacted] as a self-admitted member of the Communist Party, USA, and [redacted] also, according to Confidential Informant T-21, of known reliability, was a constant contact of HARRY HATES CHASE in 1949 and 1950.

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[redacted] of Cartersville, Georgia, on April 7, 1949, advised that WILLIAM TAYLOR was a constant contact of HARRY HATES CHASE while TAYLOR was in Atlanta, and according to WILLIAM TAYLOR presided over Communist Party, USA, meetings in the absence of HARRY HATES CHASE.

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Confidential Informant T-13, of known reliability, on December 30, 1947, advised that HARRY HATES CHASE was the District Organizer, District #11, of the Communist Party, USA.

Confidential Informant T-13 further advised on November 8, 1948, that he attended a meeting of the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia at 65 Alexander Street, Atlanta, Georgia, on November 6, 1948, and that at this meeting, DONALD WEST had submitted his written resignation as co-chairman of the Progressive Party in Georgia. T-13 advised further that a motion was made at the meeting and carried to table the resignation of WEST.

Confidential Informant T-7, prior to December 12, 1949, advised that several articles which were written by WEST were published in the "Southern Farmer."

In connection with WEST'S reported contribution to the "Southern Farmer" magazine, the letter appeared in the "Letters to the Editor" section of the Atlanta Constitution on September 19, 1947, signed "K.S., Atlanta", and is set out below:

AT 100-552

"What Line?

"I have just read in this month's issue of Southern Farmer an article by D. I. WEST praising a certain Georgia minister for being what Mr. WEST calls a "practical Christian". It seems, according to this article, he earns this praise for attacking our foreign policy toward Russia; believing peace can be ours if we want it (meaning we, and not Russia, are to blame for the threat of war in the world); for "practicing Christian democracy" by fearlessly taking Negroes into his church and in his home; for attacking the KKK, Columbians and other "Fascist" organizations (the Communist Party not being mentioned). Mr. WEST goes on to say this preacher has had the "honor" of being denounced as a Communist, thus indicating this was a sign of his being right.

"I ask you, is this pure Communist-line propaganda? You answer it.

"To be sure one should have the right to criticize his country. But for a minister of the Gospel to turn aside from the faith and join hands with the Communists, who are to the core haters of God and all that is good, only proves that we are in the time spoken of in II Thes. 2:3, the "falling away" among the believers".

Confidential Informant T-14, who in the past has furnished reliable information concerning Communist Party, USA activities in Atlanta prior to December 12, 1949, advised in July of 1949, JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT who was very active in the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia, and was formerly a close associate of WEST, advised that "DON WEST is provoking CHASE and the entire group of the Peoples Progressive Party".

Confidential Informant T-13, prior to December 12, 1949, advised that JAMES LAMAR BARFOOT visited his home in the early part of May, 1949, and told him that NAT ROSS had, on his last visit to Atlanta, tried to get DON WEST and HOMER BATES CHASE together. T-13 also quoted BARFOOT as stating that he, BARFOOT, and DON WEST were trying to get rid of the Communist influence in the Progressive Party.

Confidential Informant T-14, prior to December 12, 1949, advised that an unidentified informant had told him that WEST had stated that he, WEST, had been dropped from the Communist Party, USA because he was "too individualist".

AT 100-559

[redacted] formerly of Cartersville, Georgia, and who now resides in Atlanta, Georgia, and who, according to his own admission, was recruited into the Communist Party, USA by HOMER BATES CHASE, advised in the spring of 1949, that WEST was not actively connected with the Communist Party, USA in Georgia.

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Confidential Informant T-11, and Confidential Informants T-13, T-15, and T-16, of known reliability, advised that WEST had not been active in the Communist Party, USA during the three months period ending September 30, 1949.

Mr. WILLIAM ROY SMITH, 3740 Lacey Circle, Apartment #3, Blair Village, Hapeville, Georgia, on July 22, 1949, advised that WEST had brought HOMER BATES CHASE to his, SMITH's home, 721 Parkway Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, and that CHASE rented a room in his home, and lived there for about six months during 1946. SMITH advised that in the fall of 1948, he was again associated with WEST who at that time was active in the Progressive Party political campaign. He advised that he severed relations with HOMER BATES CHASE, but maintained a friendship with WEST, inasmuch as WEST told him that he had resigned from the Communist Party, USA, and was no longer interested or active in the party's work.

SMITH advised that on July 18 or 19, 1950, he stopped at the roadside store just north of Jonesboro, Georgia, on U. S. Highway 41, which store is operated by [redacted] and that at the time [redacted] showed him a letter which she had received from DON WEST postmarked Northport, Michigan, around the tenth or fifteenth of July, 1950. SMITH advised this letter inquired whether [redacted] would address a large number of envelopes for WEST from a list which WEST would supply her, and in which would be placed "peace tracts", advocating the "cessation of the senseless war in Korea."

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SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR. interviewed [redacted] [redacted] Hapeville, Georgia, on August 28, 1950, relative to his association with the information concerning WEST. At that time [redacted] who is the son of WILLIAM ROY SMITH, furnished the following signed statement:

AT 100-559

May 28, 1950
Atlanta, Georgia

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"I, [redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, give the following voluntary signed statement to Special Agent JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, Jr., who has identified himself to me as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice. I have been informed that I may have an attorney and that this statement may be used in a court of law. No threats, promises or inducement were made to me.

"During 1947, 1948 and 1949 I was acquainted with HOLER PATTS CIA E, District Organizer for the Communist Party for the State of Georgia, and through him became acquainted with many individuals. I have known RONALD LEE WEST since 1941 and DON WEST has been known to me as a member of the Communist Party.

HOLER PATTS CIA E, told me that RONALD LEE WEST was a member of the Communist Party. My father, BOY SMITH, told me that DON WEST was a member of the Communist Party but had quit.

/s/ [redacted]

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"Witnesses:

- /s/ J. WINTON WARDEN, Sp Agt. FBI., Atlanta, Ga., 8-28-50.
- /s/ JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR., Sp Agt. FBI., Atlanta, Ga., 8-28-50."

Confidential Informant T-7 advised that during the period from August 6, 1950 through October 17, 1950, WEST was in touch with the following organizations and publications: Rumanian News, Washington, D.C., the Yugoslav Information Center, 66 Central Park South, New York City, the Legation of Rumania, Washington, D.C.

Confidential Informant T-17, of known reliability, on December 14, 1950, advised that the following poems had been written by WEST:

"Another Awful Story"

T-17 further advised that the above listed poems paint a sad and pitiful picture of the life of small farmers and migratory

AT 100-559

workers. The poem entitled "Little Scared One" contains the following introductory note: "To a church leader who signed a peace petition, then under pressure, backed down and cried 'I was taken in by the Reds', as if the 'Reds' are the only ones who worked for peace."

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Doctor [redacted] furnished two clippings from the "Southern Farmer". The first clipping, appearing in the November, 1950 issue, was entitled "The Genuine Article" by DON WEST. This article related DON WEST's alleged visit to one JIM RANKIN of Lyndon, Kentucky. The article related that JIM RANKIN was riding DON WEST around in the vicinity of Lyndon, Kentucky, and pointed out a 1500 acre estate which he said was owned by a Kentucky businessman who owned it as a "hobby". WEST quoted farmer JIM RANKIN as saying of the houses on this estate, "But among these mansions and fine barns are families living in shacks unfit for animals. Babies have been found with their faces half eaten off by rats. If I had this land, I'd want to see it split up into little farms so people who need to could make a living on it." WEST also quoted RANKIN as follows: "Negroes--brought to this country in chains. Sold like cattle, still treated like animals in some places though we do take them to fight in our wars."

The other article entitled, "They're Being Pushed Off the Land" by DON WEST, appeared in the January, 1951 issue of the "Southern Farmer". This article was written in the same vein as the above described article and depicted deplorable conditions among migratory workers in Texas and among small farmers in general.

Confidential Informant T-18, of known reliability, on October 20, 1950, advised that WEST, who was known to him as the "poet of the revolution" had been in San Antonio, Texas for a week or ten days and had been staying with HARRY KOGER, 110 West Cypress Street. T-18 described KOGER as a Communist Party sympathizer in the San Antonio area for a number of years and possibly a Communist Party, USA member.

Confidential Informant T-19, of known reliability, on January 22, 1951, advised that a meeting was held on the evening of January 21, 1951, at 128 West Evergreen Street, San Antonio, Texas, and that WEST and Mr. and Mrs. HARRY KOGER attended this meeting. T-19 advised that the purpose of the meeting was to hear WEST read his poetry, and WEST spoke briefly concerning his career as a minister in Georgia and his experience

AT 100-559

among "wetback" Mexicans and members of the Negro race, who, he stated were in the minority and are ill treated by the majority groups. T-19 advised that WEST traveled quite a bit among the "wetback" Mexicans and members of the Negro race, and would possibly make a trip to Harlingen, Texas, and to the beet fields of Michigan in the very near future.

T-19 further advised that WEST's poems were written in blank verse and were described as poems of despair based on the misery of the "wetbacks" and Negroes. ✓

T-19 further advised that JOHN STANFORD, who according to Confidential Informant T-20, of known reliability, was a leading member of the Communist Party, USA in San Antonio, Texas, came to the meeting late apparently so he need not be introduced and brought with him a book which appeared to be a Russian information bulletin which had a large number of pictures of Russian agriculture. T-19 advised that STANFORD mentioned he came to the meeting because he liked to hear the subject speak and read poems.

Confidential Informant T-18, on February 10, 1951, advised that he had ascertained that a book of subject's poems had been published which was entitled "Clods of Southern Earth" by DON WEST. T-18 advised that this book was copyrighted by Boni and Gaer, Incorporated, 15 East Fortieth Street, New York 16, New York, and was illustrated by HAROLD PRICE. T-18 further advised the foreword of this book entitled "Appreciation" stated in part, "especially should I express appreciation to....." and set out the names of a number of persons, included among which was "To MARY LOU KOGER who symbolizes the strength of character and mind of a dawning South." T-18 added added that this book contained a photograph of WEST on the back cover. ✓

The following is the identification record for subject under FBI #814505, which record was made available by the FBI laboratory:

AT 100-559

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD, Phila, Pa.	DON WEST #139318	3/15/34	susp. char. susp. of larc. of auto	Discharged
PD, Danville, Va.	JAMES ALLEN WEAVER	7/28/34	inv.	rel.

-- PENDING --

AT 100-559

INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant T-1: [redacted] Texas, whose identity is being protected due to the fact that the information furnished is contained in Post Office records.

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Confidential Informant T-2: A pretext telephone call to an unidentified employee of the Home Missions Council of North America, Central 6-1165, by SA DANIEL THOMAS.

Confidential Informant T-3: [redacted] Georgia, who requested that his identity be kept confidential.

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Confidential Informant T-4: [redacted] Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia.

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Confidential Informant T-5: [redacted] Fernandina, Florida, who requested that his identity be kept confidential.

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Confidential Informant T-6: [redacted] Georgia.

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Confidential Informant T-7: [redacted] Douglasville, Georgia.

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Confidential Informant T-8: [redacted] Florida.

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Confidential Informant T-9: Reverend [redacted] Texas.

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Confidential Informant T-10: AT 1331, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

Confidential Informant T-11: AT 1338, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

Confidential Informant T-12: AT 1340, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

Confidential Informant T-13: [redacted] occasions volunteered reliable information concerning Communist Party activities in Atlanta and in the State of Georgia.

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AT 10-559

INFORMANTS (cont'd)

Confidential Informant T-14: [redacted] of the [redacted] Atlanta, Georgia, who has requested his identity be protected.

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Confidential Informant T-15: AT-1342, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

Confidential Informant T-16: AT-1344, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

Confidential Informant T-17: SA [redacted] New York City, New York, who was present during a search of [redacted] at New York City on December 14, 1950.

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Confidential Informant T-18: [redacted] San Antonio, Texas, who requested his identity remain confidential.

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Confidential Informant T-19: [redacted] San Antonio, Texas, who requested her identity remain confidential.

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Confidential Informant T-20: [redacted] who furnished information to SA [redacted]

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Confidential Informant T-21: [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

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REFERENCE: Report of SA AUBREY ELIOTT, JR., dated 4-24-51

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

NO FILE NO. **100-13779**

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.	DATE WHEN MADE 6-30-51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-20,27-51	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	b6 b7C CTC:dc
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, Was. Don Lee West, Don West, Reverend Donald L. West, Jim Webb, Jim Weaver			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No information developed that subject has been in the area of Hammond, La., during recent weeks.

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DETAILS: AT HAMMOND, LOUISIANA

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[REDACTED] Perrone Building, upon interview advised the writer that he was a wide acquaintance among the strawberry growers of the Hammond area and that he sees a number of these growers quite frequently inasmuch as they come to him for advice on legal, financial and other matters. [REDACTED] stated he has never heard of the name DONALD LEE WEST or any of the other aliases used by the subject and he did not believe the subject has been in this particular section of the State of Louisiana.

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The writer also interviewed Sergeant [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] Police Department and former Sgt. [REDACTED] stated he has never heard of the name DONALD LEE WEST or any of the aliases used by the subject.

AT NATALBANY, LOUISIANA

[REDACTED] advised the writer that he has never heard of the names DONALD LEE WEST, JIM WEAVER, JIM WEBB, or any aliases used by the subject. [REDACTED] stated that during the strawberry season, a large number of the itinerant strawberry pickers trade in his store, as

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
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5-Bureau (100-20996) 3-Atlanta (100-559) 1-San Antonio (Info.) (100-7986) 2-New Orleans		SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED..... JUL 2 1951 FBI - ATLANTA	SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
1965		SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED.....	SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED.....FILED.....

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[REDACTED] ed to you by [REDACTED]
100-15601-1393

well as a large number of the strawberry growers themselves, and he believed that if any person did come from some other section into this area and began contacting the working class of people, he would certainly have known about it either through gossip or through various other sources.

AT TICKFAW, LOUISIANA

[redacted] advised he does not recall ever hearing the names WEST, WEAVER or WEBB. b6 b7C

AT HAMMOND, LOUISIANA

[redacted] informed that he has never heard of the name DONALD WEST, nor has he heard the names WEBB or WEAVER. b6 b7C

[redacted] advised he has never heard of the names DONALD LEE WEST, JIM WEBB or JIM WEAVER. [redacted] related that he did not believe the subject has ever been in this area, otherwise, he feels certain that he would have been advised one way or another concerning this fact. b6 b7C

AT SPRINGFIELD, LOUISIANA

[redacted] (no route or box number) advised he comes in contact with practically every grower in Tangipahoa Parish, and that he is quite positive subject has never been in this area. b6 b7C

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

NO 100-13779

ADMINISTRATIVE

One copy of this report is being furnished to the San Antonio Office in view of the subject's activities in that area.

REFERENCE:

Letter from San Antonio to New Orleans dated May 11, 1951.

Report of SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR., dated August 9, 1948, at Atlanta, Georgia.

~~Letter from Atlanta to Bureau dated May 29, 1951.~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

ATLANTA

FILE NO.

100-330,037

REPORT MADE AT ATLANTA	DATE MADE 8/21/51	REPORT MADE BY 7/2, 10, 24, 27, 30/51 7, 8/51	REF. MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 20px;"></div>
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

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SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Acquaintance advises DON LEE WEST employed by "Southern Farmer" magazine, Montgomery, Alabama. Subject continues to travel extensively throughout southeastern states.

DETAILS:

On April 28, 1951, Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised that DON LEE WEST had recently gone to Hammond, Louisiana, where he planned to work among the migratory workers in the strawberry district surrounding Hammond, Louisiana. T-1 advised that subject had resided periodically with HARRY KOGER, 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas, since October 10, 1950.

On May 11, 1951, Mr. W. ROY SMITH, 3885 Wascanna Road, Blair Village, Hapeville, Georgia, advised that he had received a telegram from DON WEST, stating that he was coming to Atlanta, Georgia, and would stop in Atlanta on the night of May 11.

On May 11, 1951, Confidential Informant T-2, of known reliability, advised that subject was employed by the Home Missions Council of North America, traveling extensively throughout Texas, and was maintaining a base of operations at 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas, the home of a friend.

On May 11, 1951, W. ROY SMITH, 3885 Wascanna Road, Blair Village, Hapeville, Georgia, advised that on May 11, 1951,

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SEP 30 1966	
FBI - BALTIMORE	

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FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

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- 2 - Chicago (100-7192)
- 2 - Mobile
- 2 - San Antonio (100-7986)

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FBI - RICHMOND	

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 30 1966	
FBI - BALTIMORE	

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AT 100-559

he received a telegram from Fernandina, Florida, which read as follows:

"We plan to drive to Atlanta after school today and would like to stop by to see you folks. DONALD is driving."

Signed CONSTANCE"

SMITH stated subject, his wife, and daughter [redacted] arrived at his home in their 1948 or 1949 light gray, two door, fleetline Chevrolet at approximately 10:00 P.M. on May 11, 1951. He advised subject mentioned he was still employed by the Home Missions Council of North America, Chicago, Illinois, but that AUBREY WILLIAMS of the "Southern Farmer" magazine, Montgomery, Alabama, had offered him a fulltime job which he intended to accept in the near future. He stated that subject mentioned he would travel extensively throughout the southeastern states in an effort to build up subscriptions to the "Southern Farmer" magazine, and he planned to visit rural churches, offering them certain pecuniary benefits for subscriptions to that magazine obtained through their efforts.

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SMITH advised that subject's wife mentioned she intended to complete the present school year as teacher at Fernandina, Florida, but had been offered a job with the Jacksonville, Florida Public Schools, and was seriously considering accepting a teaching position in that city.

SMITH advised subject, his wife, and daughter departed from his home at 7:30 A.M. on May 12, 1951, and subject stated he intended to visit his mother at Blairsville, Georgia over the week-end, drive his wife back to Fernandina, Florida, inasmuch as she had to be at work on May 14, 1951, and that he would return to Lubbock, Texas before accepting the position at Montgomery, Alabama.

[redacted] Georgia, advised that DON WEST was observed to have visited [redacted] at [redacted] Georgia, one night during the week of May 20, 1951. He advised WEST apparently visited [redacted] for a few hours and was driving a Chevrolet automobile with Illinois license plates.

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Prior to June 19, 1951, Confidential Informant T-3, of known reliability, advised that subject picked up mail in care of General

AT 100-559

Delivery, Fernandina, Florida on June 4, 1951. T-3 further advised that this mail had been forwarded from 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas to Fernandina, Florida. T-3 further advised that subject departed from Fernandina, Florida on June 14, 1951, advising that he could be reached in care of General Delivery, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

[redacted] Florida, on June 12, 1951, advised that subject's wife had resigned from her position with the school system in Fernandina, Florida, and had accepted a position with the Superintendent of Public Instruction for Duvall County, Florida for the next school term.

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Prior to July 2, 1951, Confidential Informant T-4, of known reliability, advised that subject was in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on June 23, 1951, and advised that he could be reached in care of General Delivery, Harlingen, Texas.

Prior to June 22, 1951, Confidential Informant T-5 of known reliability, advised that subject's daughter [redacted] had been attending the Colegio Irene Toland School, located at 24 de Febrero #65 in Matanzas, Cuba. T-5 advised that [redacted] was studying Spanish at that school and had considerably more freedom than other girls attending that school. T-5 advised that subject's daughter took a number of pictures while in Cuba and during December of 1950 she was visited by her mother and her sister. T-5 further advised that [redacted] left Matanzas on June 8, 1951, and was reportedly enroute to [redacted] Florida.

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On June 27, 1951, W. ROY SMITH, Blair Village, Hapeville, Georgia, advised subject had definitely accepted a job with the "Southern Farmer" magazine, Montgomery, Alabama, at a salary of \$650.00 per month, plus expenses. He advised subject's wife is traveling with subject this summer and that she intends to teach at Jacksonville, Florida during the fall of 1951. He further advised subject's daughter [redacted] presently has a job in [redacted] Illinois, and his daughter HETTIE is in music school at Teachers College, Tallahassee, Florida.

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On June 28, 1951, Confidential Informant T-6, of known reliability, advised that on June 1, 1951, subject indicated that he could be reached at 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas, or through [redacted] Georgia.

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AT 100-559

On July 2, 1951, Confidential Informant T-7, of unknown reliability, advised that approximately two weeks ago subject had made a visit to her residence, staying for approximately two hours and on departure, advised he was enroute to Macon, Georgia. T-7 further advised that subject's daughter HETTIE was with him at that time. T-7 further advised that subject had written a new book of poems entitled "The Road Is Rocky".

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOSEPH C. HOLMES:

Sheriff MACK ABERCROMBIE, Douglasville, Georgia, advised that on July 22, 1951, a [redacted] (phonetic), who is a [redacted] on DON WEST's farm near Douglasville, Georgia, telephonically contacted him and advised he was holding an individual who had broken into WEST's home. ABERCROMBIE advised that he proceeded to subject's farm, took into custody one [redacted] and placed him in the Douglas County Jail on a charge of breaking and entering. He advised that [redacted] claimed to be a friend of DON WEST, that he had previously attended the Unitarian work camp which was conducted by DON WEST on WEST's farm during the summer of 1948. b6 b7C

On July 24, 1951, [redacted] Douglas County Jail, Douglasville, Georgia, advised that he was a native of [redacted] Massachusetts, was [redacted] and left his home several weeks ago for a trip throughout the southern states. He advised that approximately one week ago he spent a day or two at the Unitarian work camp at Monteagle, Tennessee, where some individual whose name he did not recall, told him that DON WEST was presently living on his farm near Douglasville, Georgia. [redacted] advised that he first met DON WEST in the summer of 1948, at which time he spent a month attending the Unitarian work camp which was conducted by DON WEST on the WEST farm in Douglas County, Georgia. He stated that since that time he has corresponded several times with DON WEST's daughter [redacted] but that he has had no correspondence with DON WEST. He advised that when he left Monteagle, Tennessee, he was practically out of funds and decided he would call on the WEST family for assistance in getting employment to obtain funds to continue his trip. b6 b7C

[redacted] advised that upon his arrival at the WEST farm he noted that apparently a number of repairs were being made on the WEST house and assumed that some members of the WEST family were living there, but were away from home. He advised that he entered the WEST farmhouse by removing a windowpane, took a nap, and an hour or so later when b6 b7C

AT 100-559

he made his exit through the window he was detained by a [redacted] [redacted] who had a shotgun and who ordered him to wait for the sheriff.

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[redacted] advised that during the month he spent with DON WEST in 1948, he worked on WEST's farm. He stated that the work camp was in no sense a school, that WEST made no lectures, and held no study groups, but that in numerous conversations with WEST, he received the impression that WEST was a rabid reformer who seemed intent on doing away with all racial prejudice and discrimination against members of the negro race and on improving the conditions of the poor farmer class. He advised that as part of the work program, he and the other young men and women who attended the work camp took a tour through Georgia, accompanied by DON WEST, and that on several occasions during this tour they met people who knew DON WEST by reputation. He advised that several of these unrecalled individuals made inquiry of WEST as to whether he was a Communist or not, but stated that he never heard WEST admit or deny that he was a Communist.

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On August 2, 1951, Sheriff MACK ABERCROMBIE advised that he had received a telegram from subject dated July 30, 1951, at Bonham, Texas, which advised that he did not wish to prefer any charges against [redacted] for breaking and entering his residence. He advised that as a result of this advice from subject, [redacted] was fined a nominal amount and released.

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On August 2, 1951, Confidential Informant T-8, of known reliability, advised that subject could presently be contacted at 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas.

- PENDING -

AT 100-559

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

LEADS

CHICAGO DIVISION

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Will conduct appropriate investigation to determine whether subject has actually terminated his employment with the Home Missions Council of North America, Chicago, Illinois.

MOBILE DIVISION

AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

Will conduct appropriate investigation to verify subject's employment with the "Southern Farmer" magazine, Montgomery, Alabama, and endeavor to establish a source of information as to the activities and itinerary of subject inasmuch as investigation indicates he will continue to be in a constant travel status.

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Will maintain contact with [redacted] for information regarding subject's activities in that area, inasmuch as current investigation indicates subject is presently in that area.

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ATLANTA DIVISION

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Will continue efforts to follow DONALD LEE WEST's activities through available informants and sources of information.

AT DOUGLASVILLE, GEORGIA

Will maintain contact with [redacted] and [redacted] both United States Post Office, regarding activities of subject and his whereabouts.

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (cont'd)

INFORMANTS

Confidential Informant T-1: [redacted]
[redacted] San Antonio, Texas, whose identity should be protected.

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Confidential Informant T-2: Pretext telephone call on May 11, 1951 by SA RICHARD J. BAKER to the Home Missions Council of North America, Chicago, Illinois.

Confidential Informant T-3: [redacted]
[redacted] Florida, whose identity should be protected.

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Confidential Informant T-4: [redacted]
[redacted] Arkansas, whose identity should be protected.

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Confidential Informant T-5: [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

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Confidential Informant T-6: [redacted]
[redacted] Georgia, whose identity should be protected.

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Confidential Informant T-7: [redacted]
Georgia, who requested her identity be concealed.

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Confidential Informant T-8: [redacted]
[redacted] Georgia, whose identity should be protected.

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REFERENCE: Atlanta letter to San Antonio, dated July 19, 1951.
Havana letter to Bureau, dated June 22, 1951.
Report of SA [redacted] dated June 30, 1951,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO

FILE NO. 100-112

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REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	DATE WHEN MADE 9/15/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/30/51	REPORT MADE BY JJL:DK
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject resigned position as Home Missions Council of North America, Chicago, effective 9/1/51. Last known address to be Route 4, Douglasville, Georgia.

- LJC -

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised on August 30, 1951 that he had learned from an employee of the Home Missions Council of North America, 127 North Dearborn, Chicago, whose name he did not know, that WEST had resigned from instant organization effective September 1, 1951 and that the last known address of WEST is Route #4, Douglasville, Georgia.

The source stated that at this time they did not know definitely whether WEST had obtained other employment but believed that he had not.

The source further added that WEST has not been in Chicago since November of 1950.

SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
SEP 30 1966
FBI - BALTIMORE

100-22392-45

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO CHICAGO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

100-10401-45

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CG 100-7192

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

IDENTITY OF INFORMANT:

T-1 Is a pretext telephone call to unidentified
employee of the Home Missions Council of North
America, Central 6-1165 by SA [REDACTED]

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REFERENCE: Report of SA [REDACTED] dated 8/21/51
at Atlanta.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form 204
 REPORT MADE AT

REPORT MADE AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	DATE WHEN MADE 10/18/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/16/51; 3/1/51; 5/11/51; 6/25/51; 7/23/51; 8/25/51	REPORT MADE BY LUTHER COULTER
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject continued to reside at 110 West Cypress St., San Antonio, Texas, home of HARRY and GRACE KOGER until about 4/25/51. Informants advised WEST was in Oklahoma City in February, 1951; in Hammond, La., May, 1951; in Camp Warren, Minn., June, 1951; and last known to be in Georgia. WEST's latest book of poems is entitled "The Road is Rocky". Leaflets concerning this book were distributed by GRACE KOGER, wife of HARRY KOGER, and by JOHN INMAN, leader of CP in San Antonio. GRACE KOGER, CP member in San Antonio, is listed as Secretary-Treasurer of "The Road is Rocky Publishing Committee".

- RUC -

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
 SERIALIZED _____
NOV 2 1951
 FBI - BALTIMORE

DETAILS:

AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS:

Confidential Informant San Antonio T-1, of known reliability, advised that he determined that HARRY KOGER and DON WEST who resides with KOGER at 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas, returned to San Antonio from Oklahoma City on the evening of February 16, 1951. SA T-1 learned that when in Oklahoma City WEST and KOGER attended a meeting of the "Farmers' Union of America" at which WEST talked. WEST stated that it was brought out at the above meeting that there were 150,000 members of the Farmers' Union in the State of Oklahoma, whereas there

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SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____ SEP 30 1951 FBI - BALTIMORE		100-15780-143 SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ 1871
COPIES OF THIS REPORT Bureau (100-20396) Atlanta (100-550) Antonio (100-700)		100-15780-143 SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____ SERIALIZED _____ 1871

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
 SERIALIZED _____

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were only 37,000 in Texas.

SA T-1 also advised that WEST is alleged to have made a statement similar to the following: "I am not like some of these radicals. I believe in God." WEST also indicated that he planned to be in San Antonio for about three weeks and he indicated that he had a plan or idea of starting a "mass circulation" magazine like the "New Republic" which WEST stated would cost \$2,000 to \$2,500 to publish the first issue.

On March 19, 1951, SA T-1 advised that DON WEST was still temporarily residing with HARRY and GRACE KOGER but was out of the City of San Antonio at that time on a "lecture tour" and WEST's itinerary was not known at that time.

On April 10, 1951, SA MILES L. JOHNSON observed a Chevrolet coupe bearing 1951 Illinois license Number 1-337-726 parked in the driveway at 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas. The Secretary of State (Illinois), Springfield, Illinois, advised that 1951 Illinois license Number 1-337-726 was issued to Home Missions Council of North America, 127 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

It has previously been reported that DON WEST was employed by the Home Missions Council of North America.

On April 25, 1951, SA T-1 advised that he learned that DON WEST was leaving San Antonio, Texas, on that date but his destination or itinerary was not known.

Confidential Informant San Antonio T-2, of known reliability, advised on May 1, 1951, that he had learned from HARRY KOGER that DON WEST was in Hammond, Louisiana, for the purpose of working among the strawberry pickers in the Hammond, Louisiana area.

On May 31, 1951, Confidential Informant San Antonio T-3, of known reliability, advised that about two months prior to May 31, 1951, he was in the home of HARRY and GRACE KOGER, 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas, and was introduced to DON WEST who was then residing with the KOGERS. He stated that while he was in the KOGER home, HARRY KOGER gave him some literature which he believed to be Communist and thought possibly some of the literature was "The Daily Worker" but he did not retain the literature and was not certain of the exact titles.

"The Daily Worker" is a well-known Communist newspaper published in New York City.

On June 11, 1951, SA T-1 advised that he had recently learned from HARRY KOGER that DON WEST was located near Camp Warren,

Minnesota, "where he is agitating among the migratory workers."

The May, 1951 edition of "The Last Call" published at 1710 Polk Avenue, Houston, Texas, contained an advertisement entitled, "The Road is Rocky" which stated "See page 11 for information concerning DON WEST's forthcoming book of new collections of marvelous verse.

"DON WEST is known to millions in America for his poetry full of heart-felt warmth and love for the people and as Associate Editor of 'The Southern Farmer' for his excellent features and columns dealing with the problems of Southern farm folk."

The advertisement on page 11 of the same publication explains this book and states in part, "DON WEST has no thought of financial gain for himself and our Committee, in turn, is anxious to get the book to the public at the lowest possible cost.

"We plan a first edition of 5,000 copies. We already have orders for nearly 2,000. Retail prices of the popular edition is \$1.00 and \$2.50 for the clothbound.

"Please send in your orders at once and contact your friends, your union, your church, clubs, etc. for orders. This book should be in the hands of every worker and every American who believes in building a better land. (Our first order came from Local Number 72 D.P.O.W.A. for a copy for each of its members)."

The bottom of the advertisement was a coupon to be mailed in to obtain the publication, "The Road is Rocky" and stated in part:

"Mail to Mrs. HARRY KOGER, Secretary-Treasurer, The Road is Rocky Publishing Committee, 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas."

Mrs. HARRY KOGER, also known as GRACE KOGER, according to Confidential Informant San Antonio T-4, of known reliability, was referred to as one of the members of the Communist Party in San Antonio in September, 1950, by JOHN STANFORD.

JOHN STANFORD was identified in an article in the May 7, 1951, edition of "The Daily Worker" as a member of the State Committee of the Communist Party in San Antonio, Texas.

The D.P.O.W.A. is the "Distributive, Processing and Office Workers of America."

SA T-1 advised that HARRY KOGER organized the D.P.O.W.A. in San Antonio, Texas.

Confidential Informant San Antonio T-5, of known reliability, advised that the June, 1951 edition of "The Last Call" published at 1710 Polk Avenue, Houston, Texas, contained an advertisement soliciting sales of the publication entitled, "The Road is Rocky" by DON WEST. This issue also contained an article by ROY SMITH wherein DON WEST's photograph was set out and SMITH praised DON WEST's book "The Road is Rocky" wherein he states in part:

"DON WEST is more than a poet, more than a writer whose works get nice distribution. He is also a veteran fighter in the ranks of the people for the rights of man. For many years he has been the one clear, steady, courageous and hopeful voice raised in the deep south in behalf of the common people, Negro and white."

SA T-5 advised that copies of "The Last Call" are received by some of the Communist Party members and Communist Party sympathizers in the San Antonio area.

Confidential Informant San Antonio T-6, of known reliability, advised that he obtained a mimeographed letter from GRACE KOGER, Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee to Publish "The Road is Rocky". This letter gives the address of 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas, and the mimeographed letter is addressed as follows:

"Dear Friend:

"About DON WEST's new book. DON WEST, America's foremost poet of the people has turned his newest collection of poems, 'The Road is Rocky', over to a group of his friends for publication."

The mimeographed letter, after praising other works of WEST's, requests that subscriptions to the book be made - \$1.00 for the popular edition or \$2.50 for the clothbound edition. Special pre-publication prices are given for lots of 25 or more.

The above informant also obtained a four-page flyer containing selections from DON WEST's latest collection of poems which was also issued by the above Committee and indicates that GRACE KOGER is the person to write in ordering this book.

SA T-6 advised he obtained the mimeographed letter and flyer referred to above at the Modern Book Store, Chicago, Illinois, on June 19, 1951. SA T-6 advised that the Modern Book Store is the principal outlet of the Communist Party for Communistic propaganda in the Chicago area.

Confidential Informant San Antonio T-7, of known reliability, advised that on the afternoon of August 16, 1951, he was in contact with JOHN INMAN at INMAN's Barber Shop, 728 South Hackberry Street, San Antonio, Texas. During the conversation with INMAN, INMAN gave the informant Communist literature, including three copies of "The Daily Worker" dated July 18, 19 and August 10, 1951, and also a copy of "Political Affairs", February, 1951 edition which publication indicated on the front cover that it was a review of the Communist Party National Convention held in New York City, December 28-31, 1950.

"Political Affairs" was identified by the Congressional Committee on un-American Activities in Report Number 1920, 5/11/48 as "an official Communist Party monthly theoretical organ."

At the same time INMAN gave SA T-7 the above Communist literature he gave him a two-page leaflet entitled, "A Few Selections from DON WEST's Latest Collection of Poems" used by the Committee to publish "The Road is Rocky". The last paragraph of this leaflet stated, "Give your pre-publication orders to representative here - or write to GRACE KOGER, 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas. Popular edition, \$1.00 - clothbound \$2.50 (special rate for orders of 25 books or more to unions, churches, clubs, etc.)."

JOHN INMAN has been a leader in the Communist Party in San Antonio, Texas, for a number of years according to Confidential Informants San Antonio T-8 and T-9, both of known reliability.

SA T-1 advised he determined that the two-page leaflet, "A Few Selections from DON WEST's Latest Collection of Poems Issued by the Committee to Publish 'The Road is Rocky'" referred to above were printed by the Carleton Printing Company, 111 North Street, San Antonio, Texas. The records of the 'San Antonio Retail Merchants' Association reflect that the Carleton Printing Company, 111 North Street, San Antonio, is owned and operated by [redacted]

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San Antonio Confidential Informant T-10, of known reliability, who is now deceased, advised in 1942 that [redacted] was believed by the informant to be a Communist and that [redacted] was a friend of [redacted] HARRY CAMPBELL, GEORGE CARSON, [redacted] and other Communists known to the informant. The informant also advised that [redacted] told him that [redacted] printed the Communist Party leaflets for the Party and when [redacted] was Communist Party Organizer in San Antonio, HARRY CAMPBELL and GEORGE CARSON told the informant that they could get \$5.00 for the Communist Party from [redacted] any time they asked for it.

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SA T-3 advised that he visited HARRY KOGER and GRACE KOGER, 110 West Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas, about September 20, 1951,

SA 100-7986

and during the visit GRACE KOGER told the informant about a book of poems entitled, "Clods of Southern Earth" by DON WEST and stated that she was selling it in the San Antonio area.

On September 24, 1951, SA T-2 advised that he had recently learned from HARRY KOGER that DON WEST was then residing on his farm a short distance from Atlanta, Georgia, and that WEST was going to write for the publication, "The Southern Farmer" at his home.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Identity of Informants

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-1 is [redacted] San Antonio, Texas, who furnished information to SA MILES L. JOHNSEN and who requested that his identity not be revealed.

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-2 is Security Informant [redacted] who furnished information to SA MILES L. JOHNSEN and whose identity is known to the Bureau.

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-3 is [redacted] of the [redacted] who furnished information to SA MILES L. JOHNSEN and who requested that his identity not be revealed.

Confidential Informant San Antonio T-4 is information furnished by [redacted] as indicated in Bureau letter to San Antonio dated September 29, 1950.

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-5 is Security Informant [redacted] who furnished information to SA MILES L. JOHNSEN.

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-6 is Security Informant [redacted] who furnished information to SA [redacted] (Chicago letter to San Antonio dated August 2, 1951).

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-7 is [redacted] San Antonio, Texas, who furnished information to SA MILES L. JOHNSEN and who requested that his identity not be revealed.

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-8 is Security Informant [redacted] who furnished information to SA [redacted]

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-9 is Security Informant [redacted] who furnished information to SA [redacted]

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Confidential Informant San Antonio T-10 is Security Informant [redacted]

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By letter dated September 12, 1951, the Atlanta office advised WEST was residing on his farm in Douglasville, Georgia.

It is noted that the report of SA [redacted], New Orleans, La. dated 6/30/51 reflects that investigation was conducted with negative results concerning subject's being in the Hammond, La. area.

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No leads are being set out for Oklahoma City and Minneapolis Divisions as it is being left to the discretion of the Office of Origin to request investigation in those Divisions, if such investigation is deemed pertinent.

The Houston Division advised San Antonio by letter dated May 29, 1951, that "The Last Call" is published in the garage of [redacted] [redacted] Houston, Texas. The letter pointed out that informants who are familiar with Communist Party affairs in the Houston area have stated that [redacted] was very active within the Progressive Party during 1948 and early months of 1949, and described [redacted] as an "old-time Socialist" who has been sympathetic to the Communist Party but has never been a member of the Communist Party.

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The letter further pointed out that during 1950 ROBERT L. BRANNAN, NEWELL SELLS, and other members of the Communist Party who were quite active at that time in the Houston area resided in one of the apartments located at 1710 Polk Avenue.

The letter also pointed out that the Houston office has received several complaints concerning the above publication and the type of material that is contained therein. The Houston letter also pointed out that DON WEST was in Houston during March, 1951, and spent his time in the company of, and at the residence of FRED ESTES, who is considered the State Secretary of the Communist Party in Texas.

It is noted that numerous poems by DON WEST have been published in "The Last Call". It is suggested that the Houston Division submit a report in instant case attributing information concerning "The Last Call" and its publisher and DON WEST to appropriate informants.

No effort will be made to obtain a copy of subject's book, "The Road is Rocky" unless specifically requested by the Office of Origin.

REFERENCE: Report of SA MILES L. JOHNSON dated 2/19/51 at San Antonio,
Report of SA [redacted] dated 8/21/51 at Atlanta,

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT ALBUQUERQUE

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT HOUSTON, TEXAS	DATE WHEN MADE 12/4/51	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/27, 28/51	REPORT MADE BY ALICE DAL SASSO	AMF
TITLE DONALD LEE WEST, was.			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

"The Last Call" is a monthly publication published by [redacted] at Houston, Texas. [redacted] has been described by informants as an "old time socialist" who has been sympathetic with the CP but has never been a Party member. He is also described as being "eccentric old man." According to informants, this publication follows no definite political theory, philosophy, or teachings, although the author has printed several poems taken from books written by DON HOPE, which are Communistic.

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DETAILS:

AT HOUSTON, TEXAS

"The Last Call" is a monthly publication published by [redacted] who resides at [redacted] Houston.

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According to Confidential Informants T-1, and T-2, both of known reliability and who are familiar with Communist Party affairs in the Houston area, [redacted] was very active within the Progressive Party during 1943 and early months of 1949. These informants described [redacted] as an "old time socialist" who has been sympathetic with the Communist Party but has never been a member of the Party.

[redacted] was further described as an "eccentric old man" who has charge of the apartment house located at the above address.

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SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
SEP 30 1966
FBI - BALTIMORE

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3 - Atlanta (100-559)		
2 - Houston (100-111)		

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APR 47

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100-8557

Informants T-1 and T-2 advised the Progressive Party in Houston, Texas was controlled and dominated by Communist Party members during 1948.

Informants advised that this publication, "The Last Call," does not appear to adhere to any definite political theory, philosophy, or teachings. It was pointed out at times this publication follows some of the Communist Party lines and also condemes various religious sects. At other times, this publication praises religion and its benefits to mankind.

It has been noted that in the past this publication has carried poems which were written by DON WEST, subject of instant case, who has been reported to be sympathetic to the Communist cause.

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HO.
100-8559

- ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE -

Attention is invited to the fact that mention was made in the report of SA LUTHER COULTER dated 10-18-51 at San Antonio, Texas that the May 1951 issue of "The Last Call" an advertisement appeared promoting the sale of DON WEST's book "The Road is Rocky."

To date, this office has been unable to ascertain through informants and other available sources whether or not this was paid advertisement or whether it was promoted by of his own accord.

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- CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS -

Confidential Informant T-1

Confidential Informant T-2



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- REFERENCE -

Report of SA LUTHER COULTER dated 10-18-51 at San Antonio, Texas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office ATLANTA	Office of Origin ATLANTA	Date 4/21/53	Investigative Period 3/23-27; 4/1-4, 6/53
Title of Case DONALD LEE WEST, Was. Don West, Jim Weaver, James Allen Weaver, Jim Webb		Report made by C. DALLAS MOBLEY	Typed By: DS
		Character of Case SECURITY MATTER - C	

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Fact: WEST, a poet and writer, and one time minister, resides on farm near Douglasville, Ga., engaged in both farming and writing. In 1934 WEST was Trade Union Organizer for the C.P. in North Carolina. In 1935-36 he was District Organizer for the C.P. in the State of Ky.; also served as State Organizer for the Workers Alliance of Ky., in 1936. Records of HOMER BATES CHASE, former Organizer for District 31, CP., USA, in 1947, identified WEST as C.P. member with 15 years experience in the Party. The Daily Worker, in 1934, published a poem entitled, "Listen, I Am a Communist", by WEST; numerous Daily Worker references on WEST reported. Writings of WEST described as revolutionary in Daily Worker article. In 1947-48, WEST served as Executive Vice-Chairman of the Progressive Party of Ga., which, according to the informant, considered reliable,

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below			
Copies made:					
5 - Bureau (100-20396) (REGISTERED MAIL)					
3 - Atlanta (100-559)					
		BA 100-10401-48 BA 100-22392-48			

Stations:

100-15680-145
M. Mobley

SECURITY INFORMATION - ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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[Handwritten signature/initials]

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was dominated and controlled by CP members. WEST was once affiliated with the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, People's Institute of Applied Religion, and American Peace Mobilization. Background and C.P. contacts set forth. Atlanta informants report that WEST is no longer active in CP affairs.

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A.B. 100-550

DETAILS: AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

All informants hereinafter identified are of known reliability, unless otherwise indicated.

I. BACKGROUND

(a) Birth Data

WEST was born June 6, 1908, at Cartecay, Georgia, Gilmer County.

(Records of Martha Berry School, Rome, Ga.)

(b) Citizenship

American citizen by birth.

(c) Education

Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tennessee (1925-29); A.B. Degree

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee (1929-32); B.S. in Divinity

Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Georgia (1937-44); M.A. Degree

University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia (1944 - Special summer work).

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (1945 - Special summer work.)

International Peoples College, Elsinens, Denmark (1933-34 - Special courses)

(Records of Oglethorpe University, Atlanta, Ga.)

(d) Marital Status

Married MAEHL CONSTANCE WEST, at Middleboro, Kentucky, December 14, 1933. (2-1)

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(c) Military Record

None

(f) Criminal Record

WEST, under FBI #814 505, has the following identification record:

Arrested 3-15-34, as DON WEST, Philadelphia P.D. #139818, charged with suspicion of larceny of auto; discharged following Magistrate's Hearing same date.

Arrested 7-8-34, as JAMES ALLEN WEAVER, Danville, Va. P.D. #3239, charged with investigation; released.

(g) Employment

Place	Dates	Source
Communist Party Trade Union Organizer for North Carolina	1934-35	T-2
District Organizer Communist Party of Kentucky	1935-36	T-2
Secretary, Kentucky Workers Alliance 103 S. Broadway, Lexington, Ky.	1936	1937 Lexington, Ky. City Directory & Daily Worker of 10-5-36, page 5
Minister, Congregationalist Church, Bethel, Ohio	1939-40	T-1
Minister, Congregationalist Church, Romeville, Ga.	Nov. 1940 to Nov. 1941	T-3
Principal, Lula High School, Lula, Ga.	9-1-42 to 6-6-45	Dept. of Education Records Hall County Gainesville, Ga.

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Place	Dates	Source
Professor, Oglethorpe University Atlanta, Georgia	1947-48	Oglethorpe University records.
Unitarian Work Camp RFD #4 Douglasville, Ga.	1940-49	T-4
Home Mission Council of North America Chicago, Illinois (As traveling repre- sentative in South and Southwest)	1949-51	T-5
Former writer, RFD #4, Douglas- ville, Ga. (Writes for "Southern Farmer", of Montgomery, Alabama)	Sept. 1951 to present	T-4

(h) Residences

Place	Dates	Source
Gilmer and Bartow Counties, Georgia	Prior to 1925	T-6
Harrogate, Tenn. Lincoln Memorial University	1925-29	Oglethorpe University records
Nashville, Tenn. Vanderbilt University	1929-32	Oglethorpe University record
617 Cedar Street Lexington, Ky.	1936-37	Lexington, Ky. City Directory for 1937
RFD #1 Bethel, Ohio	1939-40	T-1
RFD #2 Kennesawville, Ga.	1940-41	T-3

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Place	Dates	Source
Lula, Georgia	1942-45	T-7
Oglethorpe University Campus, Atlanta, Ga.	1946-48	Oglethorpe University records
RPD #4 Douglasville, Ga.	1948-49	T-4

(Travel status -- known to have resided part time in the following places:)

110 W. Cypress St. Harrison, Texas; Bonham, Texas; Calera, Alabama; Pine Bluff, Arkansas	1949-51	T-4
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RPD #4 Douglasville, Ga. (In a very inaccessible and remote area of Douglas Co., west of the Chattahoochee River)	Sept., 1951 to present	T-4
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(i) Status of Health

WEST is reported to be in excellent health, and to be actually engaged in farm labor at the present time.
(T-3)

(j) Foreign Travel - Passport Data

The files of T-9, another Government agency, reflect that American Passport 377600 was issued to WEST on May 8, 1931, for travel in the following countries: France, Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The purpose of this travel was shown as "study", and WEST indicated that he would depart from the United States on May 20, 1931, from New York City, aboard the SS Aquitania. No record of other travel appears.

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II. CONNECTIONS WITH COMMUNIST PARTY -
MEMBERSHIP AND DISTRICT FIELD

Confidential Informant T-2, on April 14, 1949, advised that WEST had joined the Communist Party in 1934, and was assigned to the State of North Carolina, as Trade Union Organizer for the Communist Party, under the alias, JIM WEAVER. In 1935 WEST was made Communist Party District Organizer for the State of Kentucky, and served in this capacity for approximately a year and a half. Informant advised that WEST'S reports as District Organizer for the State of Kentucky had been very encouraging, by showing considerable activity and increased membership, which reached a registration figure of over 200.

PAUL KELLOGG, who succeeded WEST as District Organizer in the State of Kentucky, could locate only approximately 25 Communist Party members following WEST'S departure. The majority of branches and sections of the party reported by WEST were never located, and over 175 "paper" members of the Communist Party disappeared. Following this incident WEST'S stock in the Communist Party dropped to a low of below zero and, according to informant, for the next two years he remained as inconspicuous as possible.

Confidential Informant T-10, on April 28, 1947, advised that HOMER BARNES CHASE, publicly admitted Organizer for District 31, Communist Party, USA, Atlanta, Georgia, was in possession of a 1947 Communist Party membership card, 196336, issued in the name of JIM WEEB, of Atlanta, Georgia. The following data appeared on the descriptive portion of this record, which indicated that JIM WEEB was an alias of WEST:

Club	Atlanta at large
Section	Atlanta
County	Fulton
State	Georgia
Sex	Male
Race	White
Employment	Employed
Time in Party	15 years
Trade	Teacher
Union Affiliation	None
Mass Organization	Southern Conference for Human Welfare
Nature	Self and part-time

Confidential Informant T-11, in August, 1936, advised that WEST had been in charge of the Communist Party, Atlanta, Georgia, in 1934.

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The Atlanta Journal, a daily newspaper, on August 14, 1952, carried an article on an interview with WEST, by Mrs. CELESTINE SHELLEY, a reporter. Mrs. SHELLEY quoted WEST as saying, "Twenty years ago I wrote a poem that appeared in the Daily Worker", "I was a Communist then." According to this article WEST denied that he is now a member of the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant T-12, on January 8, 1942, advised that WEST admitted to him having been active in the defense of RIGELLO HERNDON, historical Negro Communist Party member who was prosecuted by Fulton County, Atlanta, Georgia, authorities, in 1932. WEST stated to informant that he had helped investigate the HERNDON case for the Communist Party in 1942, and had later assisted HERNDON in the preparation of a book on HERNDON'S life.

Confidential Informant T-13, on July 29, 1943, advised that in 1945 WEST appeared at the office of the Daily Worker, in New York City, at which time he requested permission to check files. He was allowed access to "Daily Worker" files because he was a Communist Party member.

Confidential Informant T-14, a prominent educator, advised that WEST, in 1948, had admitted to him that he was once a member of the Communist Party. WEST claimed, however, that he had quit the Communist Party in 1936.

Confidential Informant T-15 advised that HOMER BATES CHASE, publicly admitted Organizer for District 31, Communist Party, USA, Atlanta, Georgia, had, in 1949, informed him that WEST was a Communist Party member, but had actually quit the Party.

Confidential Informant T-16, on June 10, 1949, advised that WEST was a member of the Communist Party, in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1943.

The following references to WEST appear in the "Daily Worker", the official East Coast publication of the Communist Party:

The Daily Worker for 11-1-45 and 6-22-37, identified WEST as Communist Party Organizer for the State of Kentucky.

The 7-20-36 issue of the "Daily Worker" identified WEST as a member of the National Campaign Committee of the Communist Party, from Louisville, Kentucky.

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The "Daily Worker" for 6-19-34 identified WEST as a Communist Party organizer in the South, who was scheduled to speak in Boston, Massachusetts, at a protest meeting, on June 30, 1934.

The "Daily Worker" for June 11, 1934, in an article on page one, by EDWIN ROLFE, stated that WEST was in New York City, at the offices of the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners, 135 Fifth Avenue. The article stated: "DON WEST is in New York following his escape from the Atlanta Police and Fascist gangs who have terrorized the Negro and white workers' neighborhoods in a frantic and bestial campaign to stomp the wildfire spread of revolutionary struggle in the South".

EDWIN ROLFE, in this article, stated: "Less than a year ago there came to the "Daily Worker" a copy of a small booklet of poems, "Between the Plow Handles", by DON WEST. The poems were folk songs and hill chants, slight but meaningful lyrics of the southern hill country; rebellion smoldered in them. Here and there one felt the work of revolt, but revolution was far off. Today DON WEST, a Communist, is being sought on a charge of inciting insurrection under an old Southern slave law - - -".

Continuing, the above article stated that WEST had published three booklets. References to these booklets were as follows: "There followed, WEST said, a period during which he did organizational work for the Socialist Party, and continued to write poetry. During this period he published his three booklets of verse: 'Between the Plow Handles', 'Crab Grass' and 'Deep Living'. He refers to these poems today as folk poems, not really revolutionary, but he adds that a small volume of verse, this time revolutionary verse, is to be issued by a Virginia publisher within the next few months. It is to be called 'Southern Folks'".

Continuing, this article stated: "About ten months ago DON WEST began to feel that the Socialist Party was not doing the work he felt had to be done among the workers in the South. He didn't quite know what was wrong, but he decided to find out, and so he rode straddled an old motorcycle, rode all the way to New York, and presented himself, dusty and tired, to CLARENCE HATHAWAY, at the 'Daily Worker' office. He had a long talk with HATHAWAY, and had to offer. After a long time spent talking to HATHAWAY,

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reading literature and stocking up with more literature and further study, he returned to Atlanta a Communist."

The "Daily Worker" for October 5, 1936, page 5, identified WEST as State Organizer of the Workers Alliance of Kentucky, and a member of the National Unemployed Committee for EARL BROWDER and JAMES FORD, Communist Party candidates for President and Vice-President, respectively, in the 1936 election.

The Workers Alliance was cited as follows: "Among the successes in its front movements, the Communists point to the Workers Alliance of America. It was created in 1936 and organized in practically every relief project in the country. It was apparently patterned after the unemployed councils of St. Petersburg, Russia, set up in 1905 as a part of the Communist front there, as the Council in Russia staged sit-down strikes, so also did the Alliance stage sit-down strikes in various State Legislatures and relief bureaus in our country. (HCUA report of 1-3-39, pages 72-74.)

The "Daily Worker" for 6-22-37, identified WEST as Communist Party Organizer for the State of Kentucky, who, on June 21, 1937, had attended a reception for MAUDE WHITE, the only Negro woman member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party. This reception was held at the home of HEVA GILBERT, identified by the Daily Worker as Organizational Secretary of the lower Harlem Communist Party, 2 West 120th Street, New York City.

Confidential Informant T-12, on January 20, 1942, advised that WEST had bragged to him about organizing a group of volunteers in Kentucky to serve in the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. WEST claimed to have recruited thirty members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, and to have recruited several hundred dollars for the organization.

The Communist Party was active in recruiting American boys for the so-called Abraham Lincoln Brigade, in behalf of Loyalist Spain. EARL BROWDER has boasted that sixty per cent of the Brigade was composed of Communist Party members. (HCUA report of 3-29-44, page 146.)

Confidential Informant T-12, on January 8, 1942, advised that WEST had acted as one of the organizational founders of the Highland school, at Monteagle, Tennessee.

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Confidential Informant T-17 has advised that between October 17, 1941 and March 10, 1942, the Highland Folk School received the sum of \$500.00 from the Robert Marshall Foundation. The Robert Marshall Foundation is cited as follows: "This fund of more than one million dollars, which originated with the rich man's son whose name it bears, has been one of the principal sources of the money with which to finance the Communist Party's fronts, generally, in recent years. (HCUA report of 3-29-44, page 50.)

Confidential Informant T-18 has identified WEST as a Communist Party member in the Ohio area in 1940.

III. RECRUITING ACTIVITY

Confidential Informant T-12, on January 3, 1942, advised that in 1941 WEST asked him to become active in the labor movement, and indicated he hoped that informant would join the Communist Party. In January, 1941, WEST instructed informant in the operation of a printing press in order that informant would be able to operate this press if and when the Communist Party went underground.

According to informant, WEST sent him to New York City to attend a meeting of the American Peace Mobilization, on April 6 and 7, 1941. WEST also arranged for informant to attend the Highland Folk School for two weeks, in May, 1941.

On numerous occasions, in 1940 and 1941, WEST, in company with informant, visited the residence of HARDY LEE SCOTT, identified by informant as Secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia at that time. On several of these visits to SCOTT'S residence, WEST obtained Communist Party literature, which he turned over to informant.

The American Peace Mobilization was cited as "one of the most seditious organizations which ever operated in the United States, and an instrument of the Communist Party line prior to the Hitler attack on Russia." (HCUA report of 3-29-44, page 5)

IV. POEMS BY SUBJECT SHOWING ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPALS OF MARXISM - LENINISM

The "Daily Worker" for March 13, 1941, in a story entitled "The 'Atlanta Journal', on August 14, 1952, in story by CELESTINE

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SIBLEY, quotes WEST as admitting that he had written this poem. This poem is set forth, verbatim, as follows:

LISTEN, I AM
A COMMUNIST
By DON WEST

I am a Communist
A Red
A Bolshevik!
Do you, toilers of the South,
Know me,
Do-you understand?
Do you believe the lies
Capitalists say
And print about me?
You farmers,
Share croppers,
Renters,
Factory workers,
Negroes, poor whites,
Do you understand me,
Do you see
That I am you,
That I, the Communist,
Am you--?

I am DON WEST, too,
The poet,
The working man,
But the poet
Is a cry for justice
The Communist is the tempered soul
Of a hundred million toilers
Marching to victory
A new world
A working man's world! . . .

I am the son
Of my grandfather,
His blood pounds thru
My veins, and cries out
For justice!
I am the poet
Who sings to the south
And she responds
With sobs of misery!

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I'm not foreign
No body
With calloused hands
is foreign to us
I'm DON WEST
Raised on a Georgia farm
The son of my mother
And a Communist . . .

That means
I want bread
and shoes
And clothes
And love
And Beauty
For all your hollow-eyed babies
I want songs on the lips
And joy in the eyes
Of your anxious mothers
Who scrub
And hoe
And weave in a factory.

You toil-hardened men and women,
Whose backs are twisted
Making profits for capitalists,
I am building a new world--
Yet not I,
But you--
WE!
For we are the Communists
We are the toilers. . .

Did you ever hear of the
SOVIET UNION,
Where our comrades
Have laid their burdens down
Have taken what was always theirs
and dismissed the loafers,
The Capitalists? . . .
They are calling us
To rise
To organize
To be free

I'm speaking
I, the poet,
DON WEST
Communist,

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Bolshevik,
Red
Working man
Southern toiler . . .
You will hear me
And you'll believe,
Because I am you,
You are me,
And
We--
Are power!

V. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNIST PARTY CONTACTS

Confidential Informant T-19, on January 4, 1946, advised that on this date WEST was in contact with EARL BROWDER, then Secretary General of the Communist Party. On this occasion WEST was known to have visited BROWDER'S office, Room 702, 55 West 42nd Street, New York City.

Confidential Informant T-20, who has furnished both reliable and unreliable information concerning Communist Party activities, on December 30, 1943, advised that on December 29, 1943, WEST had called a meeting of the Communist Party in Atlanta, Georgia, at which time WEST informed the Party that he had been instructed by ROBERT F. HALL, Communist Party Organizer, for District 17, Communist Party, USA, Birmingham, Alabama, to advise them that there was a spy in the Atlanta unit of the Party. At this meeting WEST stated that FRANK McALLISTER was believed to be spying for the FBI, and was then being watched by the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant T-20, on July 10, 1944, advised that as of this date WEST'S name appeared in the personal notebook of EUGENE GORDON, identified by informant as an assistant editor of the Daily Worker.

Confidential Informant T-21, on May 22, 1945, advised that WEST'S name appeared in a pamphlet entitled 'Equal Justice Under Law', which was published by the Committee of Equal Justice, for Mrs. RECY TAYLOR. According to informant, this committee was organized and sponsored by the Daily Worker. Mrs. RECY TAYLOR was identified as the Negro woman who had been raped by a white man, in Mississippi.

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Confidential Informant T-22, on December 9, 1941, advised that on November 11, 1940, WEST spoke at the Ninth Street Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio, at a meeting sponsored by the Cincinnati Youth Committee Against C.P. According to Informant, this speech followed the Communist Party line exclusively. Informant identified this organization as having been sponsored by the Communist Party of Cincinnati.

Confidential Informant T-23, on February 5, 1951, advised that on numerous occasions in 1950 and 1951, WEST was in contact with HARRY KOGER, of 110 W. Cypress Street, San Antonio, Texas. KOGER has been active in the sale and publication of WEST'S latest publication, "The Road is Rocky".

Confidential Informant T-2 has identified KOGER as Communist Party Organizer in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1940.

Confidential Informant T-24, on June 9, 1946, advised that on this date IRVING GOFF was a guest in the WEST home on the Oglethorpe University campus, in Atlanta, Georgia. The "Daily Worker" has identified GOFF as District Organizer for the Communist Party in New Orleans, Louisiana, as of 1946.

Confidential Informant T-24, on December 1, 1947, advised that on this date WEST was in contact with LEM HARRIS, concerning a document captioned "Memo on Democratic Reconstruction of Southern Agriculture".

T-16 has identified LEM HARRIS as the Secretary of the Farmers Commission, Communist Party, USA.

Confidential Informant T-24, on December 4, 1947, advised that on this date WEST was in contact with [redacted] Confidential Informant T-25 identified [redacted] as then [redacted] of the Communist Party. b6 b7c

Confidential Informant T-24, advised that WEST was in contact with WILLIAM STAFFORD, CIO, UPWA Organizer, on April 3, 5, 1947, and on April 26, 1947.

Confidential Informant T-25 has identified WILLIAM STAFFORD as a Communist Party member at that time, who was closely associated with HOMER BATES CHASE in the overall operation of the Communist Party of Georgia.

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Confidential Informant T-26, on February 17, 1947, advised that on this date WEST was in contact with NATHAN and ANNA KATZ, at which time he presented to them a copy of his book, "Clouds of Southern Earth".

Confidential Informant T-25 has identified NATHAN and ANNA KATZ as long-time Communist Party members in the Atlanta area.

Confidential Informant T-26, on March 7, 1947, advised that on this date WEST was in contact with NAT ROSS, MARY SOUTHWARD, and HOMER BATES CHASE.

Confidential Informant T-25 has identified ROSS as a brother-in-law of WEST, and one-time District Organizer for District 17, Communist Party, Chattanooga, Tennessee. According to informant, ROSS, in 1943 and 1949, was Southern Organizer for the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant T-27, on October 20, 1949, identified MARY SOUTHWARD as the Daily Worker correspondent for Atlanta, Georgia and Birmingham, Alabama.

Confidential Informant T-28, on February 4, 1947, advised that on this date WEST was in contact with MAX WEISS.

Confidential Informant T-25 has identified WEISS as a one-time member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, and as an editor of "Political Affairs".

("Political Affairs" has been cited as an official Communist Party monthly theoretical organ". HCUA report #1920, dated 5-11-48, pages 5 and 6.)

Confidential Informant T-25, on February 6 and 7, 1947, advised that on these dates WEST was in contact with HOMER BATES CHASE and MAX WEISS. T-28, on February 14 and 15, 1947, advised that on these dates WEST was in contact with NAT ROSS.

Confidential Informant T-20, who has furnished both reliable and unreliable information concerning Communist Party activities, on March 11, 1947, advised that on February 20, 1947 WEST had attended a meeting at the Butler Street YMCA, called "Georgia Crisis", which was sponsored by the Southern Negro Youth Congress. WEST was one of the twelve white people present, and was the principal speaker. WEST, in his speech of February 20, 1947, before this group, attacked pending Georgia legislation known as the "White Primary Bill". WEST said, "You are looking at this situation. You are not facing a yamice, you are looking

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at a Georgia "Cracker", whose family has never owned a slave. I am from a poor family from the mountains and I am in favor of a decent South. Yes, a South where all men are equal. I am fighting for the masses of the people, and I will not stop until all have justice.

The Southern Negro Youth Congress has been cited as subversive and among the affiliates and committees of the Communist Party, USA, which seeks to alter the form of Government of the United States by un-Constitutional means. (Attorney General TOM CLARKE'S letter to Loyalty Review Board, released 12-4-47.)

Confidential Informant T-12, on January 8, 1942, advised that WEST, in September, 1941, had spoken at a picnic sponsored by the "Smash Hitler Committee", of Atlanta. This picnic, according to informant, was arranged by NATHAN and ANNA KATZ.

Confidential Informant T-25 has identified NATHAN and ANNA KATZ as long-time Communist Party members in the Atlanta area.

Confidential Informant T-29, a minister, advised on August 31, 1942, that in 1940, during the presidential campaign, exact date unknown, he and WEST had attended a Communist Party meeting together, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Confidential Informant T-8 has advised that following WEST'S return to his farm, in Douglas County, in the Summer of 1951, he obtained the services of HARDY LEE SCOTT, as a tenant farmer. Informant related that SCOTT remained on the WEST farm for approximately one year, being closely associated with WEST in various farming enterprises.

Confidential Informant T-25 has identified HARDY LEE SCOTT as one-time Secretary of the Communist Party of Georgia.

VI. CONNECTIONS WITH PEOPLES INSTITUTE
OF APPLIED RELIGION

The Peoples Institute of Applied Religion has been cited as subversive and Communistic.

(Attorney General TOM CLARKE'S letter to Loyalty Review Board, released 6-1-48 and 9-21-48.)

Confidential Informant T-30, on October 12, 1948, advised that

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that WEST paid the rent on this box.

RALPH MCGILL, Editor of the Atlanta Constitution, in his column of July 7, 1946, identified WEST as a Committee Member from Georgia, in this organization, as of 1947.

The Chicago Sun, a Chicago daily newspaper, on August 10, 1945, carried a story on a revival meeting sponsored by the Chicago Council of Applied Religion, at 176 West Adams Street. WEST was identified as the principal speaker, and as an evangelist for the Peoples Institute of Applied Religion. The article stated that at that time WEST was the Principal of the Lula High School, Lula, Georgia.

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On August 8, 1941, Detective Sergeant [redacted] of the Memphis Police Department, advised SA C. E. PIPER that CLAUDE C. WILLIAMS, Director of the Peoples Institute of Applied Religion, had, in his presence, on August 8, 1941, identified WEST as State Director of Georgia, for this organization.

VII. CONNECTIONS WITH THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE

This organization has been cited as a Communist front organization "which seeks to attract southern liberals on the basis of its seeming interest in the problems of the South, although its professed interest in human welfare is simply an expedient for larger aims serving the Soviet Union and its subservient Communist Party in the United States." (HCUA Report #592, of 6-12-47.)

Confidential Informant T-31, on November 4, 1942, advised that WEST was a delegate to the Southern Conference for Human Welfare conference which was held in Memphis, Tennessee, April 19-21, 1942.

Confidential Informant T-24, on December 29, 1947, advised that the Southern Conference for Human Welfare had paid WEST'S expenses to Chicago, Illinois, where he attended a conference of the Progressive Party.

VIII. CONNECTIONS WITH PROGRESSIVE PARTY OF GEORGIA

Confidential Informant T-25, on October 22, 1948, advised that the Progressive Party of Georgia was organized and controlled by members of the Communist Party, and especially by WEST and HOMER BATES CHASE, known publicly as District Organizer, District 31, Communist Party, USA.

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Informant advised that WEST was in close association with the Progressive Party of Georgia during the period 1947-48, and was known to have been in constant contact with the following individuals, all of whom have been identified by Confidential Informant T-25 as active Communist Party members during that period: ANNIE MAE LEATHERS, [REDACTED] LEAH YOUNG, JACK IGRENZ, ERNIE LEWIS, WILLIAM STAFFORD, EUDICE TONTAK, NATHAN and ANNA KATZ, and HENRY WALD.

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Confidential Informant T-25 further advised that during this period WEST served as Executive Vice-Chairman of the Progressive Party of Georgia, and would have been this party's candidate for Governor, or U. S. Senator, had it not been for derogatory publicity concerning WEST which appeared in RALPH MCGILL'S column in the Atlanta Constitution.

The Atlanta Constitution, a daily newspaper, on February 10, 1948, carried a story reflecting that WEST had addressed the National Progressive Voters League of the Progressive Party, at Miami, Florida, on February 15-16, 1948.

Confidential Informant T-24 advised that on July 24, 1948, WEST attended a Progressive Party convention in Philadelphia. Also, that WEST had attended a Progressive Party convention at Chicago, Illinois on December 29, 1947. According to informant, WEST'S expenses to the Chicago convention were paid by the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

Confidential Informant T-24 advised that on May 20, 1948, WEST, who identified himself as Executive Vice-Chairman of the Peoples New Party of Georgia (Progressive Party of Georgia), spoke over Atlanta radio station WAGA. According to this informant, WILLIAM STAFFORD and EUDICE TONTAK, both of whom have been identified as active Communist Party members at that time by Confidential Informant T-25, had assisted in preparing the script for this speech.

WEST, in this speech, made the following statements:

"Our nation's policy in Palestine can only be laid to our support of the old futile Arab monarchy and laws in that region. - - - our country's birth-right through our joint giant oil corporation. - - - China the people are fighting for their independence from hated oppressors. They have put up a fight that the whole world admires. Are we supporting them as France and Russia did Spain supported as theirs our people a Revolution? No. We are supporting the British imperialist with American arms, and the French imperialist with American weapons and loans. In

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China we have been throwing billions of dollars down the drain to support one of the most corrupted dictatorships on the face of the earth. CHINESE KAI-SHEK Government is so corrupt that it is far from being able to defend its own interests and allows American arms to be sold to the Communist right off the Shanghai docks through the black market. Here we are being played for suckers which in no way makes our game any less dangerous for the American people. In Japan we have proceeded to bolster up the emperor and the nobility and to save from destruction Zi-bat-zu, the six wealthy families who own most of the Japanese industry. We make friends with the very people who caused Pearl Harbor. Is this the best memorial we can erect to thousands of Americans who died in the Pacific? These are not pleasant facts for Americans to face. We are proud of our country and like to think that it stands for truth and justice and democracy. It is time for the ordinary American people, the common people, to come to the rescue of America's honor while there is yet time. The people can demand that this drive to war be stopped. HENRY WALLACE in his open letter to Premier STALIN has advocated a peace conference between our two nations. Mr. WALLACE said the USA and the USSR must take immediate action to end the cold war. This involves taking definite decisive steps looking toward the following objectives:

General reduction of armament. Outlawing all methods of mass destruction. Stopping the export of weapons by any nation to any other nation. The resumption of unrestricted trade except for goods related to war between the two countries. The free movement of citizens, students, and newspaper men between and within the two countries. The resumption of free exchange of scientific information and scientific materials between the two countries. The reestablishment of a reinvigorated United Nations or the Constitution of some other united nation agency for the distribution of international relief. Neither the USA nor the USSR should interfere in the internal affairs of other nations. Neither the USA nor the USSR should maintain military bases in other UN countries. Neither the USA nor the USSR should terrorize the citizens of the member states of the UN by marching land forces, establishing air bases, or making naval demonstrations. Neither the USA nor the USSR should use financial pressure, economic pressure or the pressure of secret agents to obtain political results in other countries.

Both the USA and the USSR in the spirit of the United Nations Charter should cooperate to work for the betterment of the political, economic and cultural health of the world. To that end the USA and the USSR should join the various subsidiary

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agencies of the United Nations such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Agricultural Organization, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. We, the people of America, all demand that President Roosevelt and Secretary Marshall reverse our war policy and accept the offer to sit down at the conference table with Russia. We can urge our representatives in Congress to defeat the peace-time conscription measure. We must do this now for the time is running out. But there is today an alarmingly rapid drift in the direction of Fascism in our own country, and the closing down of democratic liberties in this country. In the House of Representatives an infinite bill called the Mundt-Nixon Bill has been introduced and was passed only yesterday. On the surface this is a bill to outlaw the Communist Party. In principal and even in wording it has been borrowed from the Law passed in Hitler-Germany passed in 1933. The purpose of the Mundt-Nixon Bill is to prevent any expression by the American people of their opposition to the war policies of the present administration. If you are a member of an organization which a Communist happens to join or which adopts a policy which happens to coincide more or less with some Communist policy as defined by the FBI, your name can be published as belonging to a Communist organization and you can be jailed for continuing such activities. If you are a union member and fight for a wage increase the FBI can say you are conspiring to disrupt trade in the United States with intent to further the objectives of the world Communist Movement and jail you and smash your union. If you believe in civil rights for all people you are guilty of inviting racial tension. It's all of this - the Attorney General is the final judge of what is to be considered Communist and he would have in his hand a weapon that HEINRICH HIMMLER could hardly have improved upon for killing off opposition to the administration. Because the American people are aware of the danger to our democratic system in this bill they have sent mass protests to the House of Representatives and to the Senate demanding that the measure be defeated. Such action has succeeded or did succeed in delaying the vote in the House, but we must still demand that our representatives vote against this bill. We must act now. Send a letter or telegram or telephone Senator RUSSELL or Senator GEORGE expressing your opposition to this infinite bill or which will destroy the freedom of all of us. Defeat the Mundt-Nixon Bill.

The Mundt-Nixon Bill is one more step in the increasing tendency to fire men and women who have unpopular ideas or so-called dangerous thoughts. We have had this in George Washington

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flagrant example of precisely this - Professor JAMES L. B. HESS of the University of Georgia has been dismissed from his position at the University because he dared to have the courage to support Mr. WALLACE and to support actively the Peoples Progressive Party of Georgia. Dr. HESS believes that the best provision he can make for his three children is to fight for a decent prosperous and peaceful world. For acting on his belief he was fired. This shameful act by the University of Georgia is a blot on the school and on the state. It is reminiscent of the purges conducted by EUGENE TALMADGE which action brought the entire University System close to being discredited. In Georgia TALMADGE and his henchmen are afraid of the people, when the white and Negro express unitedly their opinions at the polls. They will go to almost any length to prevent the citizens from exercising their Constitutional right to vote. A couple of weeks ago we saw the election board of Laurens County acting in an entirely illegal conspiracy to deprive the majority of Negro voters of that county of their rights to vote. The white people of Georgia must realize that this is an attack on the rights of all of us. The corruptions of Georgia county elections is notorious and this is simply a county jump trying to protect itself from being ousted by a righteous election. There will never be decent politics in this state until all the people can help make them. The big modern owned corporations that are breeding this state do so by keeping Georgians fighting other Georgians. The FBI is investigating this illegal action in Laurens County. Every citizen of Georgia who wants a clean and honest election system must demand that those Negro voters stricken from the registry be reinstated. We must demand that the Grand Jury of Laurens County and of any other county in which such purging occurs investigate and clean house. Fellow Georgians, these are some of the problems - - - The formation of a new party in this state and in the country. We believe that there are no problems that this country faces that cannot be solved peacefully if we will only tackle them with energy and common sense that are so much a part of the American way of doing things. We ask all of you who believe in the tradition of American democracy, in Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt to support the Peoples Progressive Party. To give us your time and to send us your contribution so that we can carry on our fight to bring it through to the people. We urge you to send your contributions to the Atlanta Wallace-for-President Committee, 65 Alexander Street, N.W. Tomorrow night - Tomorrow night Mr. Wallace, himself, will speak on how we can bring an end to the cold war itself. On Saturday night, May 22, at 10:30 P.M. the Atlanta Citizens Committee will meet at the Atlanta Civic Center to fight to make the promise of America really come true and to be a blessing not only to ourselves and our children, but to the whole world as well. We thank you.

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IX. CONNECTIONS WITH AMERICAN
PEACE MOBILIZATION

Confidential Informant T-22 has identified WEST as being in attendance at a meeting of the American Peace Mobilization, at Chicago, Illinois, on September 1-2, 1940.

Confidential Informant T-12, on January 3, 1942, advised that WEST had sent him to New York City, where he attended a meeting of American Peace Mobilization on April 6-7, 1941.

The American Peace Mobilization was formed in the Summer of 1940, under the auspices of the Communist Party and the Young Communist League, as a front organization, designed to mould American opinion against participation in the war against Germany. The most conspicuous activity of the group was the picketing of the White House, which began in April, 1941, in protest against Lend Lease and the National Defense Program. The picketing was suddenly called off on June 21, 1941, by FREDERICK V. FIELD, National Secretary. (Attorney General FRANCIS BIDDLE, Congressional Record dated 9-24-42, page 7684.)

MISCELLANEOUS

Confidential Informants T-25 and T-32, who are generally familiar with Communist Party activities in the State of Georgia, and who are personally acquainted with WEST, have advised that there is no indication that WEST is presently active in Communist Party activities.

Confidential Informant T-33, on July 22, 1950, advised that JAMES BARFOOT, former Progressive Party candidate for Governor of Georgia, had, on July 10, 1950, received a letter from WEST requesting him to address a large number of envelopes for the mailing out of "peace tracts", advocating the end of "senseless war in Korea".

Records of the Superior Court of Hall County, Gainesville, Georgia, reflect that on December 2, 1947, one [redacted] of Hall County, filed suit against WEST for damages, claiming liable as a result of a poem appearing in WEST'S book, "Clods of Southern Earth". This case was heard on January 22, 1948, and was dismissed under a plea to the jury. Suit was not reinstated.

Confidential Informant T-24, advised on February 11, 1948 that [redacted] local committee known as the Don West Defense Committee, Post Office Box 1170, Atlanta, Georgia.

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The purpose of this committee was to raise funds to defend the above law suit. [redacted] Atlanta school teacher, was [redacted]

The "Daily Worker" for March 20, 1947, carried an article entitled, Don West Benefit Performance Friday. The article reflected that a benefit performance was to be held on the following day, at the Solidarity Theater, 124 W. 124th Street, New York City, in order to raise money to help WEST defend a "trumped up libel" by reactionaries in the South.

The "Daily Worker" for March 17, 1947, contained an article captioned, "Writers Party to Aid Don West". According to this story, a party was to be held on March 28, 1947, at 110 W. 45th Street, by contemporary writers, and was described as the opening gun to defend DON WEST, "whose anti-Fascist activities in Georgia had brought down the wrath of Klansmen and other reactionaries".

The "Daily Worker", on May 13, 1947, carried a story captioned, "Committee Organized to Aid Fighting South". According to the article this committee was to raise funds to help striking tobacco workers in North Carolina, and to assist in the defense of DON WEST.

Confidential Informant T-27, on June 23, 1947, advised that the above committee was a paper front, organized and established by the Communist Party, for the purpose of raising funds to aid Communist Party work in the South.

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Dr. [redacted] faculty member, Martha Berry School, Rome, Georgia, on January 5, 1946, advised SA A. W. NEALE that WEST, while a student at this school, in 1936, had attempted to organize the students to strike. According to Dr. [redacted] this strike was based on the fact that the school was supported by what WEST termed "capitalists". (HENRY FORD money.)

Confidential Informant T-3 has advised that WEST, since the summer of 1951, has received checks from AUDREY W. WILLIAMS, Head of the "Southern Farmer", a magazine published in Montgomery, Alabama. Informant reports that WEST has written numerous articles and columns for the "Southern Farmer", some of which had appeared under his true name. Informant related that WEST is in constant contact with AUDREY W. WILLIAMS.

[redacted] AUDREY WILLIAMS was at one time very active in the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

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Confidential Informant T-12, on January 6, 1942, produced a clipping of an article by WEST which appeared in the "Southern News Almanac" on June 6, 1941. In this story, entitled "Awakening Church", WEST stated that he was against war; that the present war was a war of capitalists and imperialistic nations. According to informant, the "Southern News Almanac" was edited and published by SAM HALL, of Birmingham, Alabama, and ceased to exist in 1941.

The Daily Worker for June 22, 1947, identified SAM HALL as a native southerner who was going forward as a Communist Party leader in the south. As of this date SAM HALL was identified as Chairman of the Carolina District of the Communist Party.

Confidential Informant T-12 also furnished a newspaper clipping from the Pike County Journal, Zebulon, Georgia, July 4, 1941 issue, which contained a story by WEST entitled, "Defend Democratic Ideals". This article reflects that WEST urged the American people to have no sympathy for HITLER, and advocated all-out aid for the allies.

Confidential Informant T-34, on April 11, 1952, made available a copy of WEST'S book of poems entitled "Toil and Hunger". This publication was by the Hagglund Press, of San Benito, Texas, in 1940. On page 11 of the Prologue, WEST, in writing of himself, states as follows: "My real education has been beaten into me by the everlasting toil and hunger I have seen; by the struggles I have seen in textile and coal centers, where my people were toled down from the hills by fair promises of a better life. It is this education of life, of prisons and jails for innocent men, that determined a resolve never to seek to rise upon the shoulders of others, to rise only when the great masses of plain people rise in one big united wave, and we're going to rise."

Informant also made available a small circular published by WEST, in 1944, at which time he was a candidate for the General Assembly from Hall County, in the State Primary of July 4, 1944. WEST, at the time, was Principal of the Lula Georgia High School. In this pamphlet he stated that at the outbreak of war he had volunteered for service with the Armed Forces, but was turned down because of two fingers missing on his left hand. He claimed that prior to that time he had served in the Merchant Marines, and also that he had completed major work necessary for a Php Degree. In this pamphlet WEST pledged the following items:

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A greater unity for winning a complete, total and speedy victory over Fascism, and a just and ever-lasting peace.

WEST also pledged that if elected he would work for a liberal revision of the State Constitution, to meet everyday needs.

Confidential Informant T-4 advised that as of March 29, 1952, WEST had in his possession a new .38 caliber revolver, and two 12-gauge shotguns, and in exhibiting these weapons to informant, WEST stated he was prepared for the Ku Klux Klan, or anyone attemptint to violate his rights.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Name	DONALD LEE WEST, Was. Don West, Jim Weaver, James Allen Weaver, Jim Webb
Born	6-6-00, Cartocay, Ga. (Gilmer County)
Height	6'2"
Weight	175 lbs.
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Complexion	Ruddy
Scars & Marks	Two fingers missing from left hand
Peculiarities	Right eye does not always focus
Occupation	Self-employed; farmer, writer and poet
Marital Status	Married to MABEL CONSTANCE WEST, Nee MABEL ADAMS (Married at Middlesboro, Ky., 12-28-21)
Children	[Redacted] - 1953) [Redacted] - 1953)
Relatives:	Father - JAMES OLIVER WEST (Deceased) Mother - LILLY WULSEY Aiken Rt. 2, Cartersville, Ga. Brother- [Redacted] Atlanta, Ga. Brother- [Redacted] [Redacted] of North Ga. News [Redacted] Georgia

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Relatives: (Cont'd)

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(Confidential Informant T-20, on April 15, 1943, advised SA [redacted] that [redacted] was member of C.P. as of 1943.)

Sister - [redacted]
(Wife of [redacted]
Whereabouts unknown
(Confidential Informant T-25, on August 14, 1942, advised SA FRANCIS R. JULES that [redacted] was one-time Secretary of the C.P. in North Carolina. CI T-2, on 10-17-51, advised SA C. F. WILLIAMS that [redacted] was active in the C.P. in 1937-41.)

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Sister - [redacted] aka [redacted]
[redacted] wife of [redacted]
(Confidential Informant T-25, on 8-14-52, advised SA FRANCIS R. JULES that [redacted] was a long-time C.P. member from N.C.)

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Sister - ELSIE ROSS, was. Janet West Ross, Janet Weaver, Janet Cohn, Johnnie West Ross, wife of NAT ROSS.
(CI T-25, on 8-14-52, advised SA FRANCIS R. JULES that NAT ROSS was at one time a member of the Central Committee of the C.P., and served as C.P. representative in the South for several years. CI T-2 advised SA C. F. WILLIAMS, on 10-17-51, that ELSIE ROSS, better known as JANET WEAVER, had been active in the C.P. since 1930 and at one time was Daily Worker correspondent in Moscow, Russia.)

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ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

SOURCE	DATE OR DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION	DATE RECD.	AGENT TO WHOM FURN.	FILE WHERE LOCATED
T-1, Selective Service Records LDE #2 Batavia, Ohio				
T-2, PAUL CRUICH	Membership and positions held-in 1934-37 C.P. Membership of HARRY KOGER	4-14-43	SA LEON PRIGR	100-559-278 Bulet to 100-559-402 San Antonio in KOGER case; 6-22-43
T-3, [redacted] [redacted] Meansville, Ga.				
T-4, [redacted] [redacted] Douglasville, Ga.				
T-5, Pretext Call to Home Mission Council of North America Chicago, Ill. by SA [redacted]	Re: employment of WEST	8-30-51		100-559-43
T-6, [redacted] [redacted] Cartersville, Ga.				
T-7, [redacted] [redacted] Lula, Ga.				
T-8, [redacted] [redacted] Douglasville, Ga.	Health Status & Employment	Feb. 1953	SAs C. DALLAS MOBLEY & ALDEN F. MILLER (Orally)	This report

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SOURCE	DATE OF DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION	DATE REC'D.	AGENT TO WHOM FURN.	FILE WHERE LOCATED
T-9, [redacted]	Re Passport issued 5-18-51	6-25-47	SA CLYDE D. NICOLL 100-559-164	
T-10, Anonymous source known to SA CLEMENT McGWAN and SA GEORGE DEBLARD	1947 C.P. Membership card in records of HOMER BATES CHASE	4-20-47		100-559-152
T-11, JOHN P. FREY, Pres. Metal Trade Dept., AFL	C.P. Membership 1934		FREY'S testimony, AUG. 1938. HCUA Rept, Vol. I p. 123	
T-12, [redacted] (now deceased)	C.P. Membership and activities of WEST in general	1-3-42	[redacted] (Orally)	100-559-49 b6 b7C
	Highland Folk School	1-8-42		
	Re. Abraham Lincoln Brigade	1-20-42		
T-13, [redacted]	C.P. Membership, 1945	7-29-48	SA J. T. MCCARTHY (Orally)	100-559-311
T-14, [redacted] Coglethorpe University	C.P. Membership	4-23-51	SA [redacted] (Orally)	100-559-401
T-15, [redacted]	C.P. Membership	8-28-50	SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER JR. 100-559-381	
T-16, [redacted]	C.P. Membership	6-10-49	SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER JR. 100-559-401	
Records, Book of Sewanee, Tenn. made available by [redacted] informant [redacted]	School		SA [redacted]	100-559-6 b6 b7C

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SOURCE	DATE OR DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION	DATE REC'D.	AGENT TO WHOM FURNISHED	FILE WHERE LOCATED
T-18, Mrs. MARTHA NICHOLS EDMUNSTON	C.P. Membership, Ohio area, 1940		Testimony of Mrs. EDMUNSTON appearing in HCUA report of hearing of C.P. activities in Cincinnati, O. area, 7/12-15; 8/6/50, page 2176)	
				100-559-94
T-19, Physical Contact with EARL Surveillance of subject on 1-4-45 by SAs F. J. GALLANT & [redacted]	BROWDER			
T-20, Former Atlanta Informant [redacted]	C.P. Meeting Atlanta, 1943, re spy in unit	12-30-43 (Orally)	SA [redacted]	100-559-94
	Name in GORDON'S Notebook, July, 1944	7-10-44 (Orally)	SA [redacted]	100-559-97
	Re WEST'S appearance at SNYC, 2-23-47	3-11-47 (Orally)	SA [redacted]	100-559-14
T-21, N.Y. informant [redacted]	Name in pamphlet of Committee for Mrs. RECY TAYLOR.	5-22-45 (Orally)	SA [redacted]	100-3985
T-22, Cincinnati Informant [redacted]	C.P. Activities 1940	12-9-41	SA S. H. HORTON	100-559-67
T-23, [redacted] San Antonio, Texas	1950-51 contacts with Texas C.P. member	2-5-51 (Orally)	SA [redacted]	100-559-46

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SOURCE	DATE (A DESCRIPTION OF INFORMATION)	DATE FILED	AGENCY TO WHOM FURNISHED	FILE NUMBER LOCATED
T-24, AT-1324	4/3,5,26/47 12-1-47 12-4-47 12-29-47 2-11-48 5-20-48 6-9-48 7-24-48	4/3,5,26/47 12-1-47 12-29-47 12-29-47 2-11-48 5-20-48 6-9-48 7-24-48		100-559-217 100-559-217 100-559-217 100-559-223 100-559-283 100-559-280 100-559-280
T-25, [redacted] b2 b7D	Re [redacted] Re NATHAN and ANNA KATZ Re NAT ROSS	4-26-47 b6 b7C	SA [redacted] (Orally)	100-559-160 100-559-140 100-559-135
T-26, Physi- cal surveil- lance by SAs GEORGE P. DILLARD and PAT RICE b2 b7D	Contacts with NATHAN and ANNA KATZ on 2-17-47 Contact with NAT ROSS MARY SCOTLAND and CHASE on 3-7-47	2-17-47 3-7-47		100-559-140 100-559-135
T-27, NY Informant [redacted]	Re Committee to Aid Fighting South	6-23-47	SA F. J. SMITH	100-559-171
T-28, Physi- cal surveil- lance by SAs DILLARD and McGOWAN	Contact with MAX WEISS on 2-4-47 Contact with CHASE and WEISS on 2/6,7/47 Contact by NAT ROSS 2/14,15/47	2-4-47 2/6,7/47 2/14,15/47		100-559-135 100-559-137 100-559-137
T-29, Rev. [redacted] first Congregationalist Church, Saybrook, Connecticut	Attended C.P. Meet- ing, Cincinnati, 1940	8-31-42	SA [redacted] [redacted]	100-559-74 b6 b7C

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SOURCE	DATE OR DESCRIPTION FROM REPT. DATE	DATE FILED	AGENCY FURNISHED	FILE NUMBER
T-30, [redacted] [redacted] Atlanta P.O.	Re P.O. Box 1170 rented for PIAR	10-21-41	[redacted] (Orally)	100-559-310 b6 b7C
T-31, Anony- mous source, known to SA JOHN L. ROBERTS	Attendance at 1942 SOHL meeting Memphis, Tenn.	11-4-42		
T-32, [redacted] [redacted]	b2 b7D Re present activity	3-26-53	SA C. DILLAS MOBLEY	This report
T-33, WILLIAM ROY SMITH (Deceased)	Re mailing of peace tracts	7-22-50	SA JOSEPH T. SYLVESTER, JR.	100-559-138
T 34, FRANK WALLS Brookhaven, Ga.	Re WEST'S general activities, including possession of firearms	4-11-52	SA MOBLEY SA ALDEN F. MILLER (Orally)	100-559-489

REFERENCE: Bureau letter 6-25-52.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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